



THE INDEPENDENT



2.956

INSIDE TODAY'S NEW-LOOK SECTION TWO

TUESDAY 9 APRIL 1996 40p

From Russia with menace

A new mob on the streets of Brooklyn

Virtual reality: a new cure for phobias

Health

New York's big three take centre stage

Fashion

Wealthy learn how to beat Labour tax threat

KPMG help £40k band

MICHAEL PRESTAGE and JOHN RENTOU

Businessmen worried about higher taxes under a Labour government are flocking to seminars held by a leading firm of accountants to learn how to switch their money out of the country.

The accountancy firm KPMG has invited its clients, and a target list of business people, to 150 seminars across the country where they have been briefed on the tax rises the firm thinks are likely if Labour wins the next election.

Labour's Treasury spokesman, Alistair Darling, last night dismissed the exercise. "People should bear in mind that many of the advisers

ulates that Labour could bring in a new top rate of income tax at 50p or 60p in the pound. In the absence of recent firm policy statements their figures rely heavily on Labour's policies at the last election. Labour only proposed a 50p rate in its last manifesto, but the Tories have claimed that parliamentary questions tabled last year on the likely yield from a 60p tax rate by Nigel Griffiths, a Labour trade spokesman close to the shadow Chancellor, were evidence of secret Labour plans.

Mr Darling said: "Anyone who thinks we're going to be fighting this election on the last... manifesto seriously needs to examine their thinking."

KPMG admits the seminars have proved a successful way of attracting business. "We are not double-glazing, salesmen, but the meetings have been profitable-raising and they let people know we are in the market to give good advice," said John Turberville, senior tax manager at KPMG's Bristol office.

Mr Turberville said the success of the seminars was not surprising. "It is not hard to get people to come to a seminar where the subject is protecting yourself against higher taxes under a Labour government."

He said his clients were only engaged in legally reducing their tax bills. The idea of the extra revenue going to education and the health service was one most business people thought "a good idea in principle, but not for me, thanks".

Scott Davidson, one-time keyboard player with bands the Pet Shop Boys and Bros, and now a successful newspaper publisher and chairman of Bristol City FC, said the seminar he attended covered a good variety of topics.

He said: "Politics is not something I take a great deal of interest in, but I am concerned that incentives for people to invest may be lost. Entrepreneurs like myself, who put [their] house on the line to reap some benefit, regard the return to 1970s tax rates as horrifying."

In the South-west 250 people had attended the seminars run by KPMG's Bristol office in various luxury hotels. The first series were held before 5 April so that urgent action could be taken in the last tax year.

Labour's tax spectre, page 2
Leading article, page 14



Loyalists clash with police after they were prevented from marching through the Catholic Lower Ormeau area of Belfast

Photograph: Reuters

Loyalist parade ends in rioting

STEVE BOGGAN

Police fired plastic bullets into a crowd of Protestant demonstrators last night after a riot broke out when an Apprentice Boys' march was banned from a predominantly Catholic area of Belfast.

At least three RUC officers and two civilians were injured when 300 protesters pelted the police with petrol bombs at the end of a stand-off that lasted for more than eight hours.

After enduring a hail of missiles, police were given the order to draw their batons and drive rioters away from the Lower Ormeau district, the scene last year of sporadic violence during the Protestant marching season.

Tension mounted throughout the day after the RUC refused to allow the marchers to pass through the Catholic area because of the fear of violence. Last year, a number of people were injured during a three-day impasse at Portadown, where Catholic residents asked police to prevent an Orange march.

Yesterday's violence flared after police and marchers appeared to have reached a compromise. However, with the arrival of another marching band and scores of Loyalist protesters, many of whom seemed drunk, a riot looked inevitable.

Bottles, glasses and, eventually, petrol bombs, rained down on police, forcing them to take cover behind a cordon of

reinforced Land Rovers blocking the marchers' route across the Ormeau Bridge over the River Lagan. Finally, the order was given to disperse the crowd, leading to pitched battles in side streets along the route of the proposed march.

The latest trouble flared as Sinn Féin announced that it would take part in next month's Northern Ireland election, if the SDLP decided to contest them, a move which seems increasingly likely.

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, said nationalists feared that the elected body would be "an embryonic Stormont". But he seemed resigned to accepting that Sinn Féin would have to take part.

"We actually believe that the best way forward for the nationalist community is for the nationalist political representatives not to participate in the election or the elected body," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

"But the SDLP is a party in its own right and if they decide to contest the elections, then I'm certain that Sinn Féin will do likewise."

Mr McGuinness insisted Sinn Féin had a right to take part in talks whatever the IRA did, but said his party was willing to play its part in helping to bring about a fresh ceasefire.

"We can only realistically do that if we have a package we can put to the IRA, which will give absolute assurances and

guarantees that real and meaningful peace negotiations, without pre-conditions and within the time frame, will take place," he said. "We need to be absolutely assured that all the pre-conditions which are clearly there at the moment are going to be swept to one side."

The chairman of the SDLP, Jonathan Stevenson, said his party wanted to see the legislation relating to the elections before deciding whether to take part in them.

"The only pressure upon us... is to get to all-party talks and to find a formula which will turn off the violence for good. If we do not see these elections as an impediment to that process, then we will probably take part," he said.

Can British farming go green?

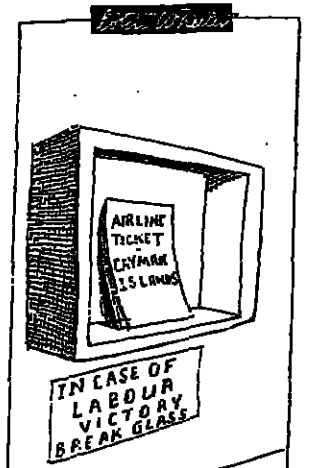
With the Great British Beef Crisis degenerating into a row about how much the European Union should pay, we are in danger of forgetting the bigger picture. Is something going seriously wrong with our industrial and chemical-intensive approach to agriculture and the countryside?

Imagine if, tomorrow, the Government announced that it wanted all British farming to be organic within 15 years; that we would be the first Western country to change direction in its agricultural policy.

Imagine that instead of Whitehall and Brussels rigging the market in favour of quantity at all costs, British politicians decided to rig it in favour of organic farming and a quality revolution. Imagine their official aim was to make British beef, dairy products, vegetables and fruit the world's best - food that Parisian restaurants, German butchers and Pacific start-ups would insist on.

Could such a leap of imagination land back in the real world, armed with pricing and marketing policies? Is there an opportunity for Britain which deserves serious consideration? What would it mean for food prices here - employment - the economics of farming - the balance of trade? What exactly do we mean by organic, and are there any half-way-houses? Is "going green" an urban fantasy or the start of a hard-edged economic strategy for the revival of British agriculture?

Today, on page 15, the *Independent* begins a debate intended to answer some of these questions: could Britain go green?



who recommend changing investments take a large commission or fee every time. All advice, warnings and threats should be taken with a large pinch of salt," he said.

A KPMG document headed "Pre-Election Tax Planning", obtained by the *Independent*, suggests that people with incomes of over £40,000 a year "will have less disposable income" under Labour. It says they should consider:

- the use of offshore trusts
- disposal of short-term investments before the election, placing assets in trust for children or other dependents
- maximum use of tax-free investments now in case they are withdrawn by Labour
- early retirement to take advantage of favourable capital gains tax rules.

KPMG, whose management consultancy arm does work for government departments, spec-

Slimming pills set to be banned

REBECCA FOWLER

The Government is considering a ban on some slimming pills in the next month, following evidence that 15 deaths have been linked to the use of the amphetamine-style drugs, while hundreds of other users have suffered serious mental and physical side-effects.

The potential dangers of the drugs, frequently prescribed by private clinics to desperate slimmers, have been outlined in confidential consultation papers. They vary from rapid heart beat to depression, dependence and even psychosis.

A Department of Health spokeswoman said: "There is concern about the use of these pills, and whether it is appropriate to ban them as slimming aids. They are a licensed drug and have a clinical use, but the concern is whether the controls are tight enough."

The Government's Medicines Commission reported that many patients receive prescriptions on demand, and that the "liberal quantities" allow for a black market. The users are also poorly monitored by clinics, and often are not overweight in the first place.

The pills work by suppressing a person's appetite, or by speeding up the body's metabolism, so that it burns up calories faster.

When slimmers have taken such drugs, which were reportedly used by the Duchess of York who recently shed almost

three stone, they often see a dramatic weight loss in a very short period of time. But they may need to take increased dosages to keep up the effect.

Despite attempts by the General Medical Council (GMC) to impose restrictions, the pills have continued to flow among slimmers. The council sent a written warning to doctors on the harmful side-effects two years ago, and told them they faced disciplinary action for irresponsible prescriptions.

The latest report highlights the dangers of fenfluramine, which has been linked to five deaths, and phentermine, which was linked to two deaths among slimmers. The drug dextylpropion has been linked to a further eight deaths.

Among the victims was Christine Malik, a mother of two who died two years ago, aged 31, after she attempted to shed a few pounds before she went on holiday. She collapsed within five days of taking diuretics, appetite suppressants and hormone drugs prescribed by a private clinic in London.

Experts, including the GMC, have advised that the drugs should only be used to treat certain forms of obesity, and under expert medical supervision. But their use has remained rife outside these boundaries, and only a handful of doctors appear before the council each year to answer charges of issuing careless prescriptions.

Danger drugs, page 3
Leading article, page 14

Abigail crowned princess among porkers

Abigail, aged three, completed a rags-to-riches story yesterday when she won Britain's first pet-pig show. She beat off competition from 29 pigs from all over the country to become show champion.

Organisers had anticipated a big turn-out but had to print extra tickets after more than 3,000 people flocked to a Cheshire showground for what is destined to become an annual treat.

Onlookers at Liverpool University's Leahurst Veterinary School in Neston, Wirral, saw a variety of domesticated pigs trotted out by owners, with a display of party tricks by some of the competitors proving a particular delight.

Heather Powles, from Shildon, Co Durham, won the novelty section after Charlie and

Roger, her eight-month-old Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, blew bugles, ran through a tunnel and sat on command.

"This is the biggest audience they have ever had and I had no idea if they would freeze on the big occasion - but they've been amazing," she said. "I've been keeping pigs for six years and I have five altogether. They are clean and intelligent and more responsive than a dog to train. I get my leg pulled by friends but I'm thick-skinned - you need a sense of humour when you keep pet pigs."

Experts were on hand to tell prospective owners about the pitfalls and little-known legal responsibilities of the hobby. Pet pigs have to be kept clear of farmland and a special licence is needed to take them for a



Bacon buddy: One of the pets on show yesterday

walk, specifying the route they will follow.

Pigs also need plenty of space and although they will eat anything, must not be given meat, offal, eggs or bakery waste.

Abigail's owner, Sheila Franklin, keeps 16 pet pigs at her boarding kennels and cattery in Capenhurst, Wirral, most of them rescued from owners who could not cope

when the animals started to grow. Her show champion, Abigail, was in a sorry state because of overfeeding until Ms Franklin stepped in to save her 18 months ago.

"She was owned by someone who knew nothing about it and was so bloated she was blind because of the fat around her face. We put her on a diet and slimmed her right down and now the judges say she is just right. I'm delighted!"

Judge Tony York said: "They have all been well handled and cared for and are obviously loved pigs who came here in very good condition. We have been pleased by the standard, especially considering this was the first time an event like this has ever been held - next year the number of entries will double."

IN BRIEF

Threat to Tories

John Major's local council, Huntingdon, could be the only one which remains in Tory hands after the local elections in three weeks' time. Page 4

Balkan hope

Rump Yugoslavia and its former republic of Macedonia normalised their relations yesterday, signing a treaty that could help to reduce political and ethnic tensions in the southern Balkans. Page 10

Today's weather

Dry, bright and warm in most areas. Section two, page 25



BE A WRITER

Make money writing and earn while you learn

The Writing School, founded in 1949, shows you how to write articles, short stories, novels, romances, radio and TV scripts that sell and keep on selling.

Top professional writers, through the School's comprehensive home-study course, give you individual tuition.

YOUR AMBITION

All you supply is the ambition to succeed and then spend just a few hours each week studying at your own pace.

AND YOU CAN'T LOSE!

Our end of course guarantee means that if you have not recovered the cost of your tuition by the time you have completed your course, your fees will be refunded.

ACTIONLINE FREEPHONE

0800-282-468

For further information and your FREE booklet call this number.

Please write for our FREE book, "Writing for Pleasure and Profit" and details of our FREE 15-day trial offer. No stamp needed.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

FREEPOST THE WRITING SCHOOL (LINDS)
FREEPOST RCC 8048
REDHILL RH1 6BR
(no stamp needed)

section ONE

BUSINESS 16-18 COMMENT 14,15 CROSSWORD 24 GAZETTE 12
LEADING ARTICLES 14 LETTERS 14 NEWS 2-11
NEWS ANALYSIS 13 OBITUARIES 12 SHARES 18 SPORT 19-24

section TWO

ARCHITECTURE 13,14 ARTS 9-11 CROSSWORD 26
FASHION 14,15 HEALTH 6-8 LISTINGS 24,25 MEDIA 16-20
RADIO 27 TELEVISION 28 WEATHER 25

2
newsBusiness takes
off at Gatwick

The demand for Easter holidays abroad will see almost a million people pass through Gatwick Airport by the end of this week.

The duty manager Keith Booker said last night that business over the two-week Easter period was up 15 per cent on last year with 950,000 travellers using the West Sussex airport.

Some 380,000 arrived or departed over the four-day holiday weekend, including 74,000 yesterday.

"Next weekend is the peak, with 83,000 expected to pass through the terminals on Saturday and 87,000 on Sunday," Mr Booker said. Favourite destinations were the United States, the Caribbean and Mediterranean resorts, while short skiing trips and rugby tours were also popular.

Early yesterday, about eight transatlantic flights into Gatwick were hit by fog. The flights were diverted to Birmingham, Stansted and Heathrow airports for refuelling before arriving at Gatwick two or three hours late.

A spokesman for Heathrow said 150,000 people passed through yesterday. The busiest day of the Easter period so far was last Thursday, with 165,000.

On the motorways yesterday, there was a gradual build-up of traffic as people

headed home after weekend breaks.

An RAC spokeswoman said the M5 was busy through Avon as trippers returned from the South-west and the Severn Bridge experienced its usual delays. The A1 southbound through North Yorkshire to the M62 moved slowly through sheer volume of traffic.

Earlier, day-trippers brought traffic problems around zoos, theme parks and resorts. "There was congestion around Chester Zoo. Skelligness was very busy, and there were long delays on the M55 heading for Blackpool," the spokeswoman added.

An accident on the A74 southbound caused an eight-mile tailback in Dumfries and Galloway.

The Health and Safety Executive will investigate reports of nitric acid escaping yesterday from an industrial waste plant in the east end of Sheffield owned by Yorkshire Water PLC. The M1 motorway had to be closed for more than two hours, rail services halted and people were advised to stay indoors.

Police described the incident as an "accidental venting of gas" at Global Environmental Services, resulting in a yellow cloud rising high above the plant.

At the heart of the Bank Holiday bustle on Brighton beach



A walker passes the West Pier at Brighton yesterday morning; some flights into Gatwick were diverted because of fog. Photograph: Andrew Hasson

NUT and NASUWT conferences: Teachers' biggest union rejects moves to wrest power from left wing

Strike threat
to classrooms

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

A teaching union yesterday threatened strike action over government plans to name bad teachers shortly after rejecting moves to wrest control of the organisation from the left.

The National Union of Teachers' conference in Cardiff voted to ballot members over industrial action if teachers were victimised as a result of inspections. From this month, inspectors will grade teachers from one to seven and those scoring six and seven will be reported to the school head.

Delegates were in an angry mood as they voted by a large majority to scrap proposals by Doug McAvoy, their general secretary, to introduce New Labour-style democracy with one member, one vote for important policy decisions.

The scheme, thought to be unprecedented in trade unions, would have meant that conference decisions had been ratified by a ballot of all members.

Union leaders had agreed to change union rules after the membership overturned a series of strike decisions taken at last year's conference. They say that conference delegates, picked at small branch meetings of activists, are increasingly unrepresentative of ordinary members. At present, conference is the supreme policy-making body.

Mr McAvoy said a ballot of members showed that more than 80 per cent of the 38,000 members who voted were in favour of the change. "It is a sad day for the union. There is a conflict between the decision taken by conference and the declared desires of members. They are wishing to keep in their hands the power to determine the union policy and not to represent the views of members."

In a heated debate, opponents of the changes said the executive was trying to bolster its own power. Gill Goodwin, of Kirkcaldy, West Yorkshire, said: "We are not opposed to democracy. We are saying no to this oligarchic system being smuggled in through the back door. If this is democracy... it is an insult to the values of a trade union and a contemptuous disregard for the intelligence of our members."

Jane Coombs, of east London said: "I came to this conference having been ratified by members in a ballot. Why do I have to be ratified again? If these rule changes are passed this could be my last conference of any meaning."

John Cox, of Cumbria, said the introduction of one member, one vote had been instrumental in raising the popularity of the Labour Party.

Dean Rogers, of Hillingdon, west London, said: "We are not living in the age of Keir Hardie... We are living in the age of mobile phones, computers and the Internet. We can communicate with our members."

The executive suffered a series of defeats on other motions on union democracy. Mr McAvoy said he would continue to press for the union to adopt the policies which had been rejected.



Frightened: Judith Elderkin outside her school in Salford before vandals set fire to it

Head stoned by vandals

A primary head teacher has told how she was stoned and taunted after she and two colleagues identified youths who broke into a car in the school car park.

Judith Elderkin, head of Marlborough school in Salford, a delegate at the National Union of Teachers conference, said the local authority had paid a 24-hour security guard on the school at a cost of £1800 a week after a series of acts of vandalism.

She also described how her school was torched on Sunday night and the nursery and infant block badly damaged. Around 100 four-to-seven-year-olds will be without their classroom when they return to school next term.

Mrs Elderkin said that shortly after the car park incident 39 high level windows were smashed at the weekend, showering the school with glass.

"We were worried and frightened about reprisals. That was confirmed when I was walking past the school and was showered with a hail of stones by boys sitting on the roof. It began to dawn on me that we were all at risk."

Both she and the security guards had also been taunted and called a grass.

The break-in to a staff member's car in the car park happened about six weeks ago. Arrests have been made.

She said: "It is difficult when you work on a day to day basis

of providing a stress-free atmosphere for pupils and children. We know that school should be a safe haven for children and may be a better environment than many have elsewhere."

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said the 480-pupil school had no perimeter fence, eight gates and 15 entrances. The union, which is represented on the Government's working party on school security set up after the death of headmaster Philip Lawrence, is pressing for more resources to improve fencing and liaison with police.

He said: "Most schools are secure places but there is no room for complacency."

Doubt
cast on
spelling
'failure'

JUDITH JUDD

Exam officials have cast doubt on a survey which suggests that teenagers' spelling and punctuation is worse in GCSE exams than it was in the old O-level.

A small survey by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations syndicate found that English GCSE students in 1994 were up to three times worse at spelling than O-level pupils in 1980 and had a narrower range of vocabulary.

There was a six-fold increase in the use of non-standard English.

The survey involving scripts from 30 boys and 30 girls awarded each grade from A to E at O-level and from A to G at GCSE found that pupils who failed O-level would have received a C or better at GCSE.

A spokesman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority which advises the Government on exams said: "This survey is based on two years. It would be instructive if it were a full sequence over a number of years."

The authority is conducting a full-scale comparison into exam standards over time but decided that there was not enough evidence to go back further than a decade.

The study, which is also examining whether there have been changes in A-level standards, will be published later this year.

IN BRIEF

Figures give boost to cancer screening

Screening prevented three-quarters of the potential cases of cervical cancer in 1992, a report revealed yesterday. But the audit by scientists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund also said the NHS cervical screening programme needed further improvement.

A total of 24 health authorities and health boards throughout the UK took part in the audit to test whether it was possible to routinely assess the amount of cancer prevented. Screening histories of 348 women with invasive cervical cancer diagnosed in 1992 were compared with those of 677 healthy women. Results indicated that screening prevented between 1,100 and 3,900 cases in the UK in 1992 alone.

Girl found safe

Missing schoolgirl Deo Adebayo was found safe yesterday at a railway station less than a mile from her home. The station manager at Dartford, Kent, alerted police when he recognised the 15-year-old. Police said she was returning home voluntarily after disappearing last Thursday night.

Mouse fire

A fire which wrecked the magnificent home of top polo players Simon and Claire Tomlinson last Thursday may have been started by a mouse. The couple believe a mouse ate through wires in the attic of their £750,000 mansion at Down Farm, Westonbirt, Gloucestershire, and caused a short circuit.

Foreign posting

Cut-price flight tickets have gone on sale over the post office counter. Cheap scheduled airline tickets are now available at the Trafalgar Square post office, central London, and could soon be on offer in high street branches up and down the country, the Post Office said.

Nice return

Inland Revenue workers have scooped a tax-free multi-million pound bonanza in the National Lottery. A syndicate of 19 tax inspectors from Glasgow is to share a payout of £4,245,315 from the weekend's £21 million rollover pot.

Prince of rails



Prince of Wales: Called for report on Fort Bridge work

The Prince of Wales has called for a progress report on maintenance work being carried out on the world's most famous rail bridge. He was in North Queensferry in Fife yesterday to meet directors of Railtrack, which is responsible for the Fort bridge. His visit followed a report from the Health and Safety Executive which said the structure was safe, but had been allowed to deteriorate. The prince heard how abseilers were used in repainting.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	£5.00	Wanda	£5.00
Belgium	£5.00	Italy	£4.50
Canada	£5.00	Madagascar	£3.25
Cyprus	£3.25	Malta	£3.25
Denmark	£3.25	Norway	£3.25
Ireland	£3.25	Portugal	£3.25
France	£3.25	Spain	£3.25
Germany	£4.50	Sweden	£3.25
Greece	£3.25	Switzerland	£4.00
Luxembourg	£3.25	USA	£3.00

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

By mail, 13 weeks Europe £11.75, Zone 1 (Middle East, Africa, Asia and India) £14.00, Zone 2 (Far East and Australasia) £20.75. To order, please send cheque payable to Johnsons International Media Services Ltd to 43 Millbrook, London E14 9TH or telephone 0171-536 0288. Credit cards welcome.

BACK ISSUES

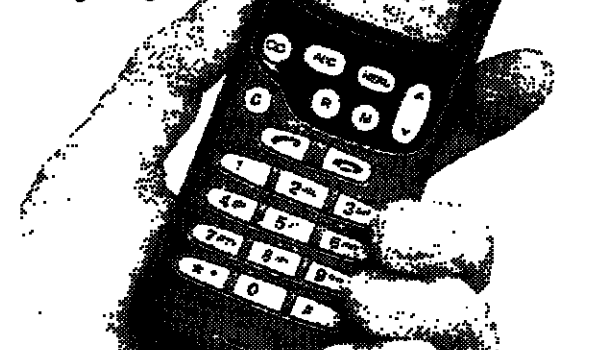
Back issues of the Independent are available from: Historic Newspapers, telephone 0208 402455.

New digital Nokia.
100 hours of power!

NOKIA

NEW GSM MODEL 1610.

- ◆ Up to 100 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
- ◆ 199 name/number memory
- ◆ Fast recharge-55 mins
- ◆ 5 selectable ring tones
- ◆ Weight 250g



FREE 50 MINUTES
CALLS PER MONTH
IN APRIL, MAY & JUNE

- NEW GENERATION DIGITAL NOKIA - replaces the proven 2110 model
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- MORE POWER - up to 100 hours' standby-time, up to 3.5 hours talk-time
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security

LIMITED OFFER
£9.99
INC. VAT

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise

Cellphones
direct

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREephone 0800 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 6PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 5486. CREDIT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT OTHER CREDIT CARDS.

Other subject to standard and standard contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1JA. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright Registered No 2995222.

Party chiefs accused of schools 'cant'

FRAN ABRAMS

The Prime Minister and Tony Blair were both accused of "hypocrisy and cant" by a teachers' union leader yesterday. Both men had taken on education as a personal crusade as a general election approached. But both had failed to live up to their own principles, according to Pete Cole, President of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers.

In a speech to the union's annual conference in Glasgow, Mr Cole said both the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, and Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, had been sidelined by their party leaders.

"The heat is being turned up on the general election campaign. Both leaders appear to have personally taken over responsibility for education, giving Shephard and Blunkett relatively minor supporting roles. Hypocrisy and cant are very much to the fore in the politics of education," he said.

Mr Cole also accused J Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswoman, of "staggering naivety" in her decision to send her son to a selective school, despite her party's opposition to selection.

Mr Blair, the Labour leader, sent his son to the grant-maintained Oratory school in west London. This had called into question the sincerity of the party's policies on education,

which included opposition to opting-out, Mr Cole said.

"People who put themselves in prominent public positions do not, nor should they, have the luxury to say one thing and do something else. I am reminded of a poem by Spike Milligan: 'People who live in glass houses should pull the blinds when removing their trousers',"

The Prime Minister was equally guilty, Mr Cole said, when he spoke of equal opportunities for all pupils.

"This is sheer hypocrisy coming from the leader of a party which has introduced enormous inequality into the education system," he said.

Mr Cole blamed poverty, unemployment and social po-

larisation for violence in schools. These had been brought into focus by the stabbing of the London head teacher Philip Lawrence in December and the shooting in Dunblane, last month, he said.

A growing number of attacks on teachers by pupils and parents had contributed to a four-fold increase in the number of staff taking early retirement on health grounds. Ten years ago the figure was around 1,500 per year but it had now grown to 6,000.

Mr Cole called for a Royal Commission on education. Teachers and politicians sought to work together to plan an education system which could meet the changing needs of industry, he said.

Brown tries to rid Labour of spectre of high taxes

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Gordon Brown has consistently refused to confirm that the better-off would pay more tax under Labour since he ditched the party's 1992 tax policies in one of his first acts as shadow Chancellor.

It is a stance which confused party members as much as tax advisers, and has prompted the briefings to businessmen by the accountants KPMG on how to switch their money out of the country under Labour.

However, it is central to Mr Brown's strategy to rid Labour of the spectre of high taxes which has haunted the party since the then Chancellor Denis Healey promised to "squeeze the rich until the pips squeak" in 1974. Mr Healey subsequently raised the top rate of income tax to 83 per cent.

These kinds of tax rates have been repeatedly disowned by Labour leaders, but Mr Brown believes the tax issue was one of the party's most serious weaknesses in both the 1987 and 1992 elections.

In 1987, Neil Kinnock, the party leader, and the shadow Chancellor Roy Hattersley, inadvertently disagreed about what would happen to National Insurance contributions.

And in 1992, John Smith's "shadow Budget" proposing increased National Insurance contributions for people earning more than £21,000 a year and a new 50p-in-the-pound income tax rate at above £40,000 a year, left the party open to renewed Tory attacks.

Mr Brown's strategy was strengthened by the election of

Tony Blair to succeed Smith as leader. In contrast to Smith's identification with the idea of redistributive taxation, Mr Blair talks of the need to preserve the "incentive" of low taxes.

The Brown-Blair strategy has also been vindicated by Tory tax rises since the 1992 election, which has enabled Labour to shift the ground of the argument over economic policy. Taxes have gone up under the Tories because of economic weakness, Mr Brown argues, and - more controversially - will go down under Labour because the

economy will be strengthened.

But Mr Brown has still left a grey area for accountants and tax advisers to exploit. As KPMG say, "no statement has been made on Labour's current intentions" in respect of income tax and National Insurance for the higher paid.

KPMG's suggestion that Labour would bring in a higher rate of income tax "possibly at 50 or 60 per cent" is not outlandish, although Mr Blair and Mr Brown are believed to have discussed ruling out tax rates higher than 50 per cent.

April 10 1996

Slimming pills: Women often unaware of potential perils as they strive for 'unnatural ideal'

Danger drugs freely given to all who ask

For thousands of slimmers it makes you thin. But the cost has proved higher than they imagined, with evidence that 15 deaths have been linked to the controversial drugs, and that many more users have suffered disturbing side effects.

In recent years the pills have become an increasingly prominent part of the £1bn slimming industry in Britain. Many users experienced a dramatic weight loss in a matter of only weeks while using the drugs, which suppress the appetite or speed up the metabolism.

But the use of the pills, obtained mostly from private slimming clinics, has caused growing concern among medical experts. Among the side effects are addiction, insomnia, depression, hair loss, restlessness, hallucinations and, at worst, death.

Despite efforts to control the spread of the drugs, hand-

Analysis

ed out in liberal quantities by the clinics for between £25 and £50 for a six-week supply, their attraction has been widespread among anxious slimmers, many of whom are not even medically overweight.

The Duchess of York and Whitney Houston, the singer, have reportedly taken slimming drugs. Ms Houston was rushed to hospital with an irregular heartbeat after she attempted to shed weight quickly following the birth of her daughter in 1993.

Dr Michael Spira, adviser to Slimmers Clubs UK, is among those who do not wish to see the drugs banned, but brought under more rigid control, for use only in extreme cases of obesity. He believes the drugs should only be available on NHS pre-

scriptions, from approved doctors and specialists in obesity.

Dr Spira stressed the best way to lose weight for most people was a healthy diet, with low fat and refined sugar contents, and plenty of exercise. He said: "Pills should only really be prescribed for people who are extremely overweight and have tried traditional methods of dieting and have failed."

The drugs fall into two main groups: appetite suppressants, stimulants which work like amphetamines, speeding up the metabolism and burning up more energy; and diuretics, which can strip the body of water and potassium.

The most disturbing trend is the use of the drugs among women who are not medically overweight, but still wish to shed pounds. Many are competing with the waif-like figures of catwalk models like Kate Moss and Jodie Kidd, who have created an unnatural ideal.

One of the first casualties was Mavis Fryer, a former model who died three years ago, aged 52, after an addiction to slimming pills that spanned 30 years. She first started taking them when Twiggy, the first super-waif, had created the look.

Miss Fryer was forced to take more and more pills for them to take effect, but her weight still ballooned to 15 stone, and when she died she was taking 20 times the recommended dose of Duromine.

Shirley Farrell, 36, a receptionist from Dagenham, Essex, is among those who had a genuine weight problem, but experienced disturbing side-effects from slimming pills and also found the weight loss temporary. She went to a private clinic in Ilford when her weight reached 18 stone and paid £500 for a six-month course of pills.

"The doctor didn't even give me a medical check-up. He simply weighed me and dishd out pills and a diet sheet," she said. "I still don't know what they were. It's ripping people off when they're extremely vulnerable. When you're really overweight, you're so desperate you'd try anything."

Although Ms Farrell lost three stone, she regained the weight as soon as she stopped taking the pills, and she also suffered from depression and fatigue. Only when she left the clinic and followed a healthy eating plan, did her weight drop properly to 11st 8lb.

Rebecca Fowler

Chemical name	Brand name	Possible side effects	Contra-indications
Dexfenfluramine/ Fenfluramine	Ponderax Adipomin Ponderal	Diarrhoea, drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, loss of libido, impotence, blood disorders, pulmonary hypertension-like reactions	Not to be taken if pregnant, epileptic, or with a history of depression, or drug or alcohol abuse
Phentermine	Adipex Duramine Jonamin	Dry mouth, headache, rashes, dependence, insomnia, depression, psychosis, hallucination, hypertension	Not to be taken if pregnant or breast feeding, suffering from epilepsy, glaucoma, unstable personality, severe hypertension, history of drug abuse
Diethylpropion	Tenuate Dietapin Aplinate	As above	As above

Clinics flourishing in climate of deregulation

REBECCA FOWLER

When hopeful slimmers enter the corridors of Britain's slimming clinics, for many it is a last resort. They look for reassurance and hope in every corner of these establishments. They take reassurance from authoritative posters and leaflets. Yet anyone in Britain can set

up a slimming clinic, and the regulations surrounding them are so limited it is not even known how many exist.

Despite concern that the clinics continue to cater for a vulnerable group of people — who are often so eager to lose weight they will try anything offered to them, at any cost — When they fail to take detailed

medical histories and prescribe medication without informing the patients' GPs, against the guidelines of the General Medical Council (GMC), clients are unlikely to complain.

The Consumers' Association (CA) carried out a lightning survey of four slimming clinics last year which showed a disturbing lack of rigour among

doctors. The association's researchers were prescribed slimming drugs such as Dospan, Jonamin and Duromine without any warning of side-effects.

A CA spokesman said: "We urge consumers to be very careful when visiting clinics, which anybody can set up. On one of the visits a researcher was told not to worry about side-effects,

which is clearly not proper advice. You have to quiz the specialists as much as you can."

Although the Home Office stopped issuing licences seven years ago, amid concern that the prescription of slimming drugs was on the rise, they have continued to flourish. But there have been growing calls for regulation of the industry

Alice Mahon, Labour MP for Halifax, said: "At the moment the diet industry can claim almost anything they like about their products... the multi-million pound industry is completely unregulated. It falls totally to warn potential clients about risks and adverse side-effects associated with rapid weight-loss programmes."

Role model: The super-waif image of top models such as Kate Moss (pictured) is a spur to dieters



Father dies as he tries to save daughter

STEVE BOGGAN

Police investigating the death of a 60-year-old man who died while trying to rescue his daughter from a pub fight said last night that they had not ruled out treating the incident as murder.

John Burge suffered a heart attack after going to the aid of his daughter, Helen, 17, who was assaulted outside a pub on Sunday night. He was not attacked but detectives said they intended to submit a report to the Crown Prosecution Service and they had not ruled out a murder charge.

Mr Burge, who had bypass heart surgery six years ago, ran to the Fox and Hounds pub near his home in Oxford after hearing that Helen and a girlfriend had been punched by a gang waiting outside.

Sally Hendy, the pub manager, said that the gang — including young men and women — had hit the girls in the face. "One went to get the father from the house next door and he came out to help," she said. "He fell to the ground. Someone called the police and ambulance but I think he was dead when they arrived."

Superintendent Cressida Dick said a post-mortem examination had shown that Mr Burge died from a heart attack. "[He] appeared to have received no assault injuries that would have contributed to his death," she said.

"He died, directly or indirectly, as a result of this incident. Clearly, that has to be treated as a suspicious death. We will be sending a report to the CPS. It would be wrong to prejudice what view the CPS or a coroner might take by discussing possible charges."

Despite attempts by paramedics and police to revive him, Mr Burge was pronounced dead on arrival at John Radcliffe hospital.

Police said that several young people were involved in the confrontation while others leaving the pub were looking on.

Pub landlord Nigel Rich said: "There was a gang in here who left at about 11.45 pm. They had done nothing wrong and they all left quite happily. I was busy



Heart attack John Burge, 60, went to help daughter Helen



clearing up and then the next thing I knew the police were here. There were a group of people and a body lying on the floor outside."

Muggers who attacked two elderly blind people on an Easter morning stroll were yesterday branded "despicable" by police.

John Butcher, 82, was carrying a white stick and was leaning on the arm of Gladys Wainwright, 76, as they walked to a friend's house in York for Easter Sunday lunch when the two young robbers struck.

It was the first time Mr Butcher, of York, had gone out walking after a lengthy illness, according to Ms Wainwright, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Ms Wainwright lost £100 in cash and her house keys, which were in her handbag.

Inspector Geoff Dodd of York police said: "This was a cynical crime, preying on people who are not only elderly but also unable to defend themselves in any way because of their blindness. It is despicable."

Students find a new service to peddle



A passage from India: Oxford's first rickshaw service starting yesterday with university students pedalling passengers on half-hour tours of the city. The rickshaws have been imported from India for the £8 trips

Reliant car company sets out on road to recovery

The new owner of the Reliant motor company will today reopen the production plant at Bamworth, Staffordshire, hoping that his rescue package for the firm — manufacturer of the famous three-wheeled Robin — into the 21st century.

And he will be hoping for better luck than that experienced yesterday by members of the Chesterfield Canal Society, who took to the water in a Reliant powered by a marine engine as part of a stunt to celebrate the opening of a renovated lock. A quarter of the way into the journey from Retford, Nottinghamshire, the engine failed and the crew had to paddle the rest of the way.

The company has been taken over by a former Jaguar ex-

ecutive, Jonathon Heynes, in a £300,000 deal. Mr Heynes has said up to 90 workers could be back working at the plant within a month but he added that workers would only be re-employed when enough parts had been built to make the fibre-glass cars.

The company employed 110 workers before going bust. Only 12 staff remained finishing work on 50 incomplete cars after administrators were called into the company in December last year.

"I will be going into the plant to speak to them after the Bank Holiday and will then be speaking to former employees with a view to getting them back in," said Mr Heynes.

More than 350 creditors were owed £1.12m from Reliant in-

cluding former workers who are owed on average £900 each.

Mr Heynes has bought the UK rights to the car while a Far East consortium has bought the worldwide rights for £500,000.

Plans to revitalise the company, whose models also include the Kitten and Scimitar, include an open-backed pick-up based around the original Reliant 850cc engine, and a bug-style vehicle based on the cult Bond Bug car of the 1970s for sale to holiday resorts in competition with the Mini Moke.

EU rules will also mean a rethink in construction because new directives state that the majority of components in a car must be recyclable, which means the traditional fibre-glass body may well be replaced by steel.

Bank left doors open on holiday

Staff at a branch of Barclays Bank took the concept of a bank holiday literally on Good Friday, leaving a branch open, deserted and with no alarm, writes Ros Wynne-Jones.

Staff at the Muswell Hill branch in north London had forgotten to lock up on Maundy Thursday before the bank holiday. A customer pleased to find a bank open on a public holiday was puzzled by the open-door policy. Finding that no-one was behind the counter and the branch was deserted, she rang the police.

Barclays said the incident was unfortunate and a full review of security at the branch would be carried out. A spokeswoman said: "Thankfully, no money was taken."



To many this concept would sound melodramatic. Not to us. Only dandruff sufferers know what a heavy cross this condition is to bear. An itchy, flaky scalp will not only cause physical distress, it can undermine your confidence, too. Our research taught us that dandruff is caused by a microbe. A medical condition demanding a reliable medical solution — First Aid.

First Aid for your dandruff.

Our solution, the Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo formula, proved so successful that it's been tried and trusted by doctors and dermatologists for years. Our shampoo cares for your hair differently. The breakthrough came when we identified and patented an ingredient that would specifically target and prevent the microbe that is the root cause of dandruff.

Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo works differently. As the microbe is prevented from returning, so too, are the itching and flaking symptoms. Unlike some harsher anti-dandruff treatments, our Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo is actually nice to use as well, being gentle and perfume free. So all you'll be aware of is how clean and healthy your hair feels.

Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo is effective, and after an initial period of using it twice weekly, you should only need to use it once a week to keep dandruff away. In between, you can wash your hair with whatever shampoo you like. You can buy a bottle from your pharmacist without prescription. To obtain your free information leaflet, call 0994 134 218.



NIZORAL DANDRUFF SHAMPOO. FIRST AID FOR DANDRUFF.

ONLY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR PHARMACIST. CONTAINS KETOCONAZOLE. ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE NIZORAL SHOP AT 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

news

Poll positions: Labour accused of 'scaremongering' at Staffordshire South East as Tories bid to regain ground at local elections

Dorrell fury over 'sordid' NHS claims

Labour was accused yesterday of deliberately repeating unfounded claims that a local health centre was to close as a scare tactic in the Staffordshire South East by-election.

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, accused Labour candidate Brian Jenkins of "sordid scaremongering over the NHS" as he visited Tamworth's Sir Robert Peel hospital in the constituency.

"Labour's candidate has erroneously claimed a local health centre, the George Bryan Centre, is to close," Mr Dorrell said. He had persisted with "this wholly unfounded claim" despite a letter from Gerry Malone, the health minister, clearly stating it would remain open.

Mr Dorrell, supporting the Tory candidate, Jimmy James, said the Government was putting a further billion pounds into the health service nationally from this month.



On your side: Stephen Dorrell (left), the Health Secretary, with Tory candidate Jimmy James yesterday. Photograph: Newstream

Major's council may be only one his party holds

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister's own authority, Huntingdon, could be the only council which remains in Conservative hands when the local elections are held in three weeks' time.

Voting on 2 May will be the biggest electoral test for John Major before the next general election, with his own council the benchmark to measure Tory claims that they have begun a sustained political recovery.

With Thursday's by-election in Staffordshire South East

likely to be a matter of seeing whether Labour takes the seat with a record-breaking swing, or simply a massive one, the local elections will give a fuller picture of the state of the three main parties across England.

There are elections for councils covering about half the UK population: all the English metropolitan districts, one-third of rural districts and 14 new single-tier all-purpose councils. There are no elections in London, Scotland, Wales and two-thirds of English rural districts.

If the Tories perform as badly as they did in last year's "wipe out" elections, Huntingdon would be the only authority of those going to the polls to still have a Tory majority, according to analysis by the BBC.

On last year's worst-ever showing, the Tories would lose control of their last urban council, Solihull (which they hold with support from the Ratepayers), as well as such prosperous bastions in the Home Counties as Runnymede (which includes Virginia Water) and Broxbourne (Potters Bar), and Macclesfield in Cheshire.

William Bush, head of the BBC's Political Research Unit, said: "If the Conservatives do as badly as last year, they will lose 650-670 seats - possibly more because the Liberal Democrats are getting better and better at targeting their efforts where it counts."

With the local elections expected to consolidate the Liberal Democrats' position as the second party in British local government, leader Paddy Ashdown has written to his candidates admitting that a strong showing was "vital" to the general election campaign.

The interpretation of this year's local election results is bound to be even more highly charged than in recent years, with the party "spin doctors" moving into top gear. Tory Central Office is likely to seize on elections in the new all-purpose councils, where the results will be compared with elections in

the same areas last year.

If the Tory vote recovers, they have a chance of winning Poole and Bournemouth, currently controlled by the Liberal Democrats (backed by Labour in Bournemouth). The Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, will seek to capitalise on the possible loss by Labour of its one-vote majority in Portsmouth, although the Liberal Democrats would probably keep Labour in power.

Other all-purpose councils, which do not actually take over from the two-tier district and county councils in their area until next year, are mostly Labour strongholds, such as Bristol, Southampton and Darlington.

All the other council seats



Paddy Ashdown: Letter to his local election hopefuls

contested in May were last fought in 1992, just after the last general election, which was the Tories' best year since the late Seventies. Then, the Tories won a national equivalent share of the vote of 45 per cent, 15 points ahead of Labour. Last year, the Tory share of the vote was 25 per cent - fully 22 points behind Tony Blair's "new" Labour.

With the local election campaigns due to start next week, Mr Ashdown has lodged a formal complaint with the BBC and ITV over the convention that the right to the last party political broadcast before polling day should alternate between the Government and the official opposition.

From April you must get into this routine

Jump to it, the first Self Assessment tax year starts on 6th April 1996. From then on, if you usually receive a tax return form, you'll need to make a record of your income and expenses.

What records do you need to keep?

They include bank and building society statements, dividend vouchers, business earnings and receipts, payments to employees or sub-contractors, cashbooks and any other documents that could relate to your tax. Filing these details as you go along will make it easier to fill in your first new-style Self Assessment tax return in April 1997.

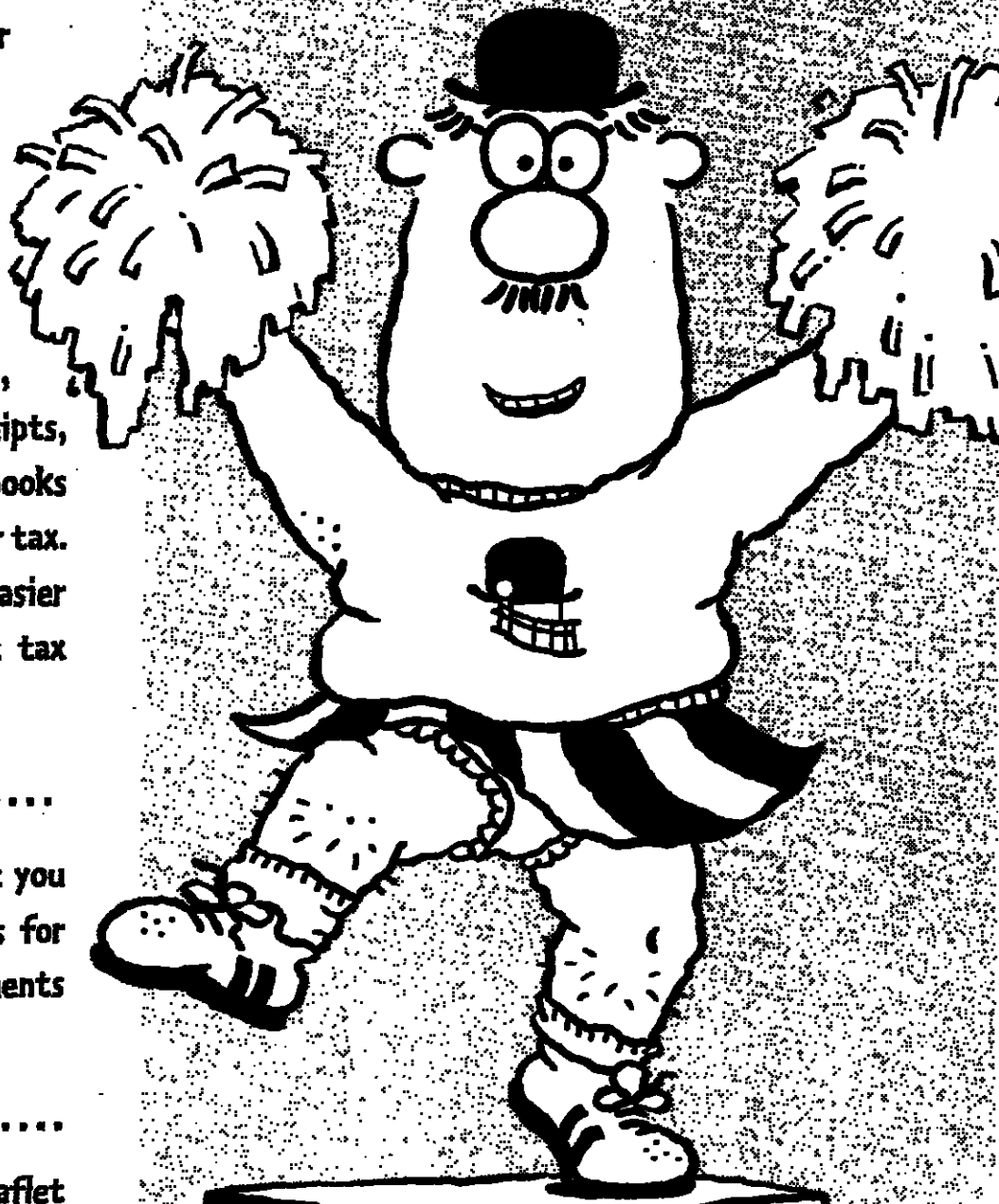
How to avoid penalties

There will be a clear timetable setting out what you have to do by when. Keeping to the right dates for sending back your tax return and making payments will mean you avoid interest and penalties.

Read the leaflet in your next tax return

To find out more, look out for the special leaflet on Self Assessment we've included with your next tax return.

We've also prepared free information guides to help you. If you'd like copies just send us the coupon or telephone our special number anytime. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)



0345 16 15 14
http://www.open.gov.uk/inrev/riaaf.htm

.....24hr.....24hr..... 24hr..... 24hr.....

Inland Revenue

Self Assessment - a clearer tax system

Please send me more information about Self Assessment. Please tick a box if you are: Self-employed ☐ Employed ☐ A Pensioner ☐ Seeking work ☐

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode

SA/IND/4/CI

PLEASE RETURN COUPON TO: SELF ASSESSMENT PO BOX 555 BRISTOL BS99 5UJ

Cash-conscious children play safe with pennies

Today's children know a nice little earner when they see one. Instead of frittering away their weekly pocket money they now prefer to build capital, according to figures published yesterday, writes Nicole Veash.

The number of children piling up their pennies has doubled in the past year, while the number of parents expecting their children to save has halved, says the 1996 *Wall's Pocket Money Monitor*.

Psychologists put the saving instinct down to children becoming more competitive, setting higher targets for themselves and believing their status would improve with more

money. Susie Stewart, from the monitor, said: "While most kids have substantially more to spend they also feel the need to save more in order to make bigger and more expensive purchases. With average pocket money presently standing at £2.40 for all age groups, up 35p on last year, it has never been a better time to be eligible."

The 5-7 year-olds are really in the money, having almost doubled their income from last year, while 11-13-year-olds have seen a two per cent drop.

With money becoming increasingly important, girls in particular are willing to work longer hours in Saturday jobs.

DAILY POEM

Son Like a Boy

By Heather Macnaught

Her son like a boy
was a lesser son
than her first
His skin was like praline
He had grimy hair
which lashed his cheek
She loved her boy
because he was hers
unlike her first
Her first son kissed concrete butt
and dialled a phone
He had a smart costume
But her son like a boy
wore bare flanks
and his hair grew more
The first son never called
her on his handy phone
Her lesser son
called her by shouting
across the water from his den
Her fond looks on him
Her proud hand upon him
The first son gained no mother
but a clenched deal, a clenched fist
and a passed business incentive
He passed over his roots
while his brother ate them

Heather Macnaught is 18 and comes from East Kilbride. She was one of only three Special Award winners of the 1995 WH Smith Young Writers' Competition: her entry, out of the 30,000 submitted, meriting special commendation from the judges. The award-winning poetry, prose and drawings of 81 children, aged 5-16 in 1995, appear in *Electric Full Stops*, published this month by Macmillan Children's Books at £4.99.

Winning entries from *Electric Full Stops* are featured in the poem slot each day this week. Details for entry into the 1997 WH Smith Young Writers' Competition will appear on Friday.

0345 16 15 14

Coma victim's mother attacks tests plan

The mother of a coma victim yesterday attacked suggestions that such patients should be used for experiments in place of animals and said she would rather kill her own son.

Violet Brayson, 34, a mother of seven from Ladywood, Birmingham, has just marked the 20th birthday of her son Robert. She and her husband, Ron, have cared for their eldest son 24 hours a day after he was found hanging in a young of-

fenders' institution 18 months ago.

Since then the Braysons have taken their son home from hospital to care for him themselves. Mrs Brayson, who says she is hopeful that Robert may one day snap out of his apparently irreversible coma, said she would rather kill her son than see him used for experiments.

She said Professor David Morton's suggestions to use people in a permanent vegeta-

tive state (PVS) for experiments were "criminal". "I would rather kill my son than see him taken away for experiments. I am absolutely horrified because this is such an inhumane suggestion."

Professor Morton, professor of bio-ethics and veterinary science at Birmingham University, told a seminar on the ethics of animal experimentation that experiments on people in a permanent vegetative state

would give more accurate results than those on chimpanzees and would reduce the number of animal experiments carried out.

Professor Morton explained yesterday he had not advocated the use of tissues from human beings unless the decision had been made to withdraw food and water and the patient had made a will saying they would like their tissues and organs to be used for research as

well as organ transplant. The professor, who lives in Leicestershire, said he was outraged at reports which had taken his suggestion out of context.

"What I said was that the medical profession may soon be faced with people who have left their body's tissues and organs for research. Various animal welfare organisations are now circulating a donation card where people can leave their tissues and organs for research as

well as for organ transplantation. So if something tragic happens to them and if it is decided these people are so permanently damaged that it is irreversible and they have decided to withdraw food and water these people will have made an advance directive or living will to say they wish their tissue to be used for research."

There are an estimated 1,500 PVS patients in the United Kingdom at present.

Mrs Brayson said, "My son can still feel pain and I would hate him to be hurt in any way. The doctors don't consider anyone else's feelings and they are talking about people's loved ones. He is saying he wants to test people like my son for experiments."

"I don't even believe in testing on live animals so how could I agree with it on my own son?"

Professor Morton said that at

present after drugs were tested on animals they still had to be tested on human volunteers.

"Occasionally, twice in the past 10 years, something has gone wrong and these people may die. One might argue therefore that it would be better and do less harm if you did some of this work on people from whom we have decided to withdraw food and water instead of on healthy human volunteers."

New frontiers: The UK National Astronomy Meeting, which opens today, tries to answer some of the mysteries of the Universe

Peanut bar inspires galaxy theory

TOM WILKIE
Science Editor

Art may imitate life, but now cosmology is imitating confectionery. Inspired by Galaxy and Mars bars and Milky Ways, Dr Michael Merrifield of Southampton University has come up with the "Snickers" peanut-bar hypothesis, giving for the first time a three-dimensional picture of the central parts of spiral galaxies.

Together with Dr Konrad Kuijken, of Groningen University in the Netherlands, Dr Merrifield has been studying the structure of spiral galaxies, such as our own Milky Way. Their work, which will be reported tomorrow at the United Kingdom National Astronomy Meeting in Liverpool, has revealed that where there is a bar, there is also a central bulge shaped like a peanut.

Although most stars congregate on one plane, forming a thin disc like a gramophone record, the centre thickens up into a "bulge" of stars and the new hypothesis provides an explanation for how these central bulges may have formed.

Around a third of the bulges have a double-lobed appearance, rather like a peanut in its shell. This is only visible in galaxies which can be seen edge-on. About a third of spiral galaxies (one of the most common formations) which can be seen face-on show a central bar — like distortion in the starlight near their centres.

The fact that peanut-shaped bulges and bars occur in similar parts of galaxies has led astronomers to advance the "Snickers hypothesis" — that the peanut structures are actu-

Cosmic link Computer-enhanced image of spiral galaxy NGC5965, seen almost edge-on. The red bulge of stars shows the 'peanut' in the centre of the flattened disc. The theory is that the bulge is formed by the buckling of a galactic bar

ally formed in the galactic bars.

Since no galaxy can be viewed both face-on and edge-on, we cannot witness both phenomena in a single structure. However, Drs Merrifield and Kuijken studied 10 edge-on galaxies, some of which had round bulges and some peanut-shaped bulges, and by looking at the orbital motion of the gas and stars they found unequivocal evidence that the peanut ones also harbour bars.

A bar-shaped mass of stars will alter the gravitational pull of the galaxy as a whole, distorting the motions of the gas and stars so that they follow complicated elliptical orbits. Using the William Herschel Telescope in La Palma, Canary Islands, to map the spectra of light emitted, Dr Kuijken and Dr Merrifield found that galaxies with round bulges had gas and dust on circular orbits — implying that they did not con-

tain bars. On the other hand, material in galaxies with peanut-shaped bulges followed the elliptical orbits characteristic of a bar.

Computer simulations of galaxies have shown that thin discs of stars are not stable entities, and that they quite rapidly produce bars at their centres. These bars are, in turn, unstable and start to buckle, bending out of the plane of their host galaxy.

This bending back-and-forth fattens the bar perpendicular to the disc of stars, forming a peanut-shaped structure. It is apparently these fattened bars that Drs Kuijken and Merrifield have detected in their study. Ultimately, the bar will dissolve entirely, leaving just the fattened structure at the centre of the galaxy. Perhaps, they therefore suggest, all galactic peanuts originally formed from buckling bars.

Red star 'emitting' water vapour

Steam has been discovered in the emptiness of interstellar space, near a cool red giant star, writes Tom Wilkie.

The European Space Agency's Infrared Space Observatory (ISO) has detected the distinctive "beat" from water vapour around the pulsating variable star W Hydrae, 300 light years away from the Earth.

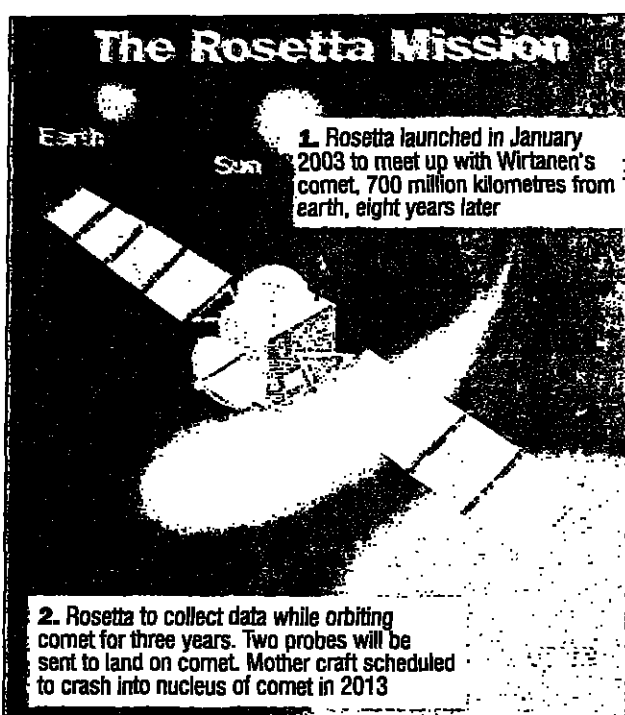
The vapour is also known to condense small, solid silicate particles. The chemical identification of these particles will help shed further light on the origins of the solid material out of which the Earth is made.

The instrument which has detected the water vapour was built by an international consortium led by Professor Peter Clegg of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, and including scientists from France and Italy.

Water vapour had been predicted to be an important constituent of the gas flowing from red giant stars such as W Hydrae. Its surface temperature is about 3,000C, although the water vapour is much cooler.

Previous searches from high-flying aircraft and balloons for the tell-tale far-infrared signatures of water in stars and nebulae had all failed because water vapour in the Earth's atmosphere absorbs radiation emitted by water vapour in space. The ISO, launched last year from Kourou in French Guiana, orbits far above the Earth's obscuring water vapour and so can search unhindered.

However, according to Professor Mike Barlow of University College London, leading the analysis of data, "the detection of water in the spectrum of W Hydrae will provide vastly more information about how water molecules are formed and excited in the gas which flows out from these stars into interstellar space".



'Rosetta' set to land on comet

DANIEL ROSEMAN

The mysteries at the heart of the comets may be revealed by a European space probe to be launched early next century.

Scientists hope that the encounter of the spacecraft Rosetta with Wirtanen's comet will provide invaluable clues towards the formation of the solar system and the planets.

The probe which will be announced at the Royal Astronomical Society meeting in Liverpool this week will be funded by the European Space Agency, to which Britain contributes. It is hoped the mission will blast off from French Guiana in January 2003 and crash into the nucleus of the comet 10 years later.

Planned cuts in the space agency's funding initially put the voyage in doubt. But the Government's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council was able to find money and the mission will now go ahead.

Rosetta will chase the comet for eight years as it approaches the Sun, passing through the bright tail to orbit the solid nucleus. It will send important scientific data to Earth about the development of the comet as it approaches the Sun. Plans to bring back a part of the comet for analysis had to be shelved because of the cost.

Two small probes will be dropped on to the surface of the comet's nucleus, carrying out experiments on samples of the matter making up the comet. The probes will be built by French and German companies and will carry instruments from British universities and laboratories, including Sheffield University, Imperial College, London, and the Mullard Space Science Laboratory near Dorking, Surrey.

Rosetta will be the first craft to land on the surface of a comet. The Giotto probe followed Halley's comet in 1986 but did not land.

'Safe' countries reject appeals to take Masari

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

Appeals by the Government to find a third "safe" country to which it can send the Saudi dissident, Mohamed al-Masari — thereby protecting lucrative arms deals — have fallen on deaf ears.

Attempts to persuade other European Union countries and neutral Commonwealth nations to take the outspoken opponent of the Saudi royal family have so far failed, leaving the Government with a sticky problem.

Only last week, the Saudi Ambassador repeated warnings that the continued presence of Mr Masari could lead to the cancellation of the huge arms contracts and harm relations between the two countries.

In the meantime the deadline set by the immigration appeal court for the government to properly consider Mr Masari's asylum application — something it has so far failed to do for fear of upsetting bilateral relations — passed last Friday. But yesterday a spokeswoman for the Home Office denied the Government was going to ignore the ruling. "The ruling is not binding and we are still considering it," she said.

Home Office ministers have made no secret of the fact that plans to deport Mr Masari are influenced by the need to maintain Britain's cordial ties with Saudi. Since arriving in the UK in 1994, his persistent allegation of corruption and demands for a transition to Islamic rule in Saudi Arabia have infuriated the Saudi royals, who have

threatened to withhold trade — therefore jeopardising many British jobs. Britain stands to benefit by up to £20bn alone from the massive Al-Yamamah arms deal and British companies are major investors in the desert kingdom.

However, its two attempts so far have been thwarted by the immigration courts. Its attempts to send Mr Masari first to the Yemen were blocked in March last year. And last month, its attempts to deport him to Dominica — a Caribbean country which had agreed to take him, after the promise of increased aid and a guaranteed banana trade with the UK — were similarly prevented by Judge David Pearl, the chief immigration adjudicator.

He ruled that Mr Masari may not be safe in Dominica and accused ministers of an unprecedented attempt to "circumvent" its obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees "for diplomatic and trade reasons". And he gave the government a month to consider his asylum claim — a deadline that expired last week.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has since let it be known that the Government is still searching for yet another country.

But time is running out for the Government. The decision by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, not to consider Mr Masari's claim for asylum is to be the subject of a judicial review later this year — and any adverse High Court ruling will be binding on the government.

Plea for cameras in murder district

A Home Office minister called yesterday for closed circuit television to be installed in the Leeds district of Chapeltown following the murder of motorist Steven Popovich.

"Had it been in place already there is strong possibility that at least one of the cameras would have assisted in the identification of the culprit," said Timothy Kirkhope, MP for Leeds North East.

Yugoslav-born Mr Popovich, 74, a retired bus driver, died after being mugged when he stopped to ask directions in Chapeltown on Saturday morning. He was due to meet friends before travelling to a Serbian charity meeting in Leicester.

Mr Kirkhope said he had the backing for the CCTV scheme from West Yorkshire police and the local council, although two local Labour councillors opposed it. The first cameras would be fitted after May when the Home Office decides whether to fund the £300,000 project under its Challenge Competition.

The MP talked of his shock at "this foul and disgusting murder" as the dead man's widow Dragica, 65, appealed from her home in Shaw, near Oldham, Greater Manchester, for help in catching the killer.

Her husband recently had a sister killed in the fighting in his former homeland and Mrs Popovich said: "It makes it difficult that with all the trouble there he should die like this."

Police appealed to any motorists or bus passengers in the area at around 8.20am on Saturday to contact them.

Renewing your home insurance in April or May?

If you're 50 or over, just see how much you can save with Saga - call us NOW!

You will know how expensive home insurance can be - thankfully, if you're aged 50 or over you can benefit from Saga Home Insurance - a superior household insurance that's only available to mature, responsible people like you.

Because of this, Saga Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out Saga Home Insurance, we'll refund you the difference.

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd, FREEPOST 731
Middlebury Square, Folkestone CT20 1AZ

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE



- Exclusively for people aged 50 or over.
- Cover is comprehensive and low cost.
- Save 30% off WorldWide flights.
- Free pen with your quotation.

Call us today!

For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on Saga Home Insurance.

0800 414 525 ext.2720

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

IF YOU ARE STILL WITH ORANGE WE RECOMMEND YOU GET YOUR BILL EXAMINED.

60
minutes maximum for £29.38 on talk 60*
orange

125
MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR £26.44 ON REGULAR CALLER PLUS*
CELLNET

RING 0800 21 4000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.



*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs. 125 mins max of off-peak calls. Mins reduce when peak-time calls are made. Telcel Securicor Cellular Radios.



**Pay for 50% of your
ZX now, then nothing
for 2 years.**

**Well Citroën are famous
for smooth rides.**



CITROËN ZX 50/50 FREE FINANCE OFFER.

The Citroën ZX is a real smoothie.

Its programmed rear-wheel steering ensures superb, sure-footed handling and an amazingly comfortable ride.

0% APR	ON THE ROAD PRICE FOR ZX 1.4i ELATION 5 DOOR	£11,127.00
	DEPOSIT (50%)	£5,563.50
	ONE INSTALMENT DUE AFTER 24 MONTHS (0% APR)	£5,563.50
	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£11,127.00

And the 50/50 finance offer makes it even easier to drive.* You simply pay half now, then half in two years' time.

There are no monthly payments or interest charges whatsoever.

You can choose from 3 and 5 door hatchbacks and estates, with a wide range of petrol or diesel engines, and prices start from just £10,447 on the road.* We'll even give you a free Vodafone mobile phone for added convenience†



To discover just how rewarding the ZX is to drive, contact your local Citroën dealer and take one for a 24 hour test drive.** (Or should we say test glide?)

For more information please call us free on 0800 262 262.

CITROËN ZX
NOTHING MOVES YOU LIKE A CITROËN

CAR SHOWN ZX 1.4i ELATION 5 DOOR £11,127.00 ON THE ROAD. 10% ON THE ROAD PRICE FOR ZX 1.4i REFLEX 3 DOOR. ON THE ROAD PRICES INCLUDE £567.00 FOR NUMBER PLATES, DELIVERY AND SIX MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE. *50/50 FREE FINANCE OFFER APPLIES TO REFLEX, AVANTAGE, AURA AND ELATION MODELS ONLY. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST FROM PSA FINANCE PLC, SICLIAN AVENUE, LONDON WC1A 2DD. **24 HOUR TEST DRIVE AVAILABLE ON ALL ZX MODELS (EXCLUDING VOLCANE AND 10V MODELS) BETWEEN 1.4i AND 1.6i SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. 24 HOUR TEST DRIVE OFFER ONLY OPEN TO DRIVERS AGED 21 TO 70 WHO HAVE HELD A FULL VALID UK DRIVING LICENCE FOR OVER ONE YEAR. CITROËN DEALERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EXCLUDE APPLICANTS FROM PARTICIPATION. DRIVERS CONVICTED OF A MAJOR DRIVING OFFENCE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS ARE AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDED. AN INSURANCE DECLARATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE DRIVER PRIOR TO THE TEST DRIVE. THE PARTICIPANT'S EXISTING CAR MUST BE NO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OLD AND SHOULD BE LEFT WITH THE DEALER FOR THE DURATION OF THE TEST DRIVE UNLESS AGREED BY THE DEALER. TEST DRIVE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM OF 100 MILES. THERE WILL BE A CHARGE FOR EXCEEDING THIS MILEAGE. †MOBILE PHONE OFFER EXCLUDES CHANNEL ISLANDS AND ISLE OF MAN. ELIGIBILITY SUBJECT TO AGE, STATUS, TERMS AND PAYMENT OF A 12 MONTH LINE RENTAL AGREEMENT. DIGITAL TARIFFS WILL BE CHARGED AT £30 PLUS VAT FOR CONNECTION. ALL OFFERS APPLY TO RETAIL REGISTRATIONS OF NEW ZX MODELS ORDERED AND REGISTERED BETWEEN 1.4.98 AND 31.3.99. FOR EXPORT/TAX-FREE SALES CONTACT CITROËN BERELEY SQUARE, TEL 01753 628 891. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

السيارة الجديدة

Gear worth £5m lost in Whitehall over 5 years

ROS WYNN-JONES

Nearly £5m worth of property has been lost or stolen from government departments in the last five years, including a consignment of Royal Navy rockets, computer chips and a horsebox.

New figures compiled from parliamentary answers show a four-fold increase in losses since 1991, with the value of property stolen or unaccounted for rising to at least £4,941,409 this year.

Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, said he began an investigation into information technology losses after a tip off that thousands of pounds of computer equipment was missing from Whitehall.

"I believe there are criminal groups operating in or outside Whitehall," he said. "Equipment appears to be coming in the front entrance and going straight out the back door. The MoD doesn't even bother to keep records of central records on the loss of items worth less than £100,000."

The Department of Health reported the theft of six items in 1991 worth £7,460. In 1996, 350 items were stolen worth £231,249. Serious Fraud Office equipment worth £1,300 is currently "otherwise unaccounted for" and the Foreign Office reported £85,000 worth of computer equipment stolen between 1994 and 1996.

Although computer technology appeared to be the biggest target for thieves, the parliamentary answers also revealed other major losses.

The Department of Trade and Industry had £49,000 worth

of chairs stolen, an "uninterruptable power supply" worth £9,000 was stolen from the Treasury and the Home Office reported the loss of 23 heat lamps worth £7,000 and a horsebox and its tools worth £6,500.

The Home Office was unable to explain the circumstances surrounding the loss of the horsebox due to the unavailability of staff over the bank holiday, a spokeswoman said. The DTI were likewise unable to explain the theft of the chairs.

The Ministry of Defence said a consignment of three rockets, worth £104,000, had been "lost" following the Gulf War. "We ran a six-month investigation into their whereabouts," a spokesman said. "It was decided they were either lost en route home, or that they were not missing at all and it was merely an accounting error."

Stressing that the rockets were not dangerous and were designed to distract other rockets from reaching their targets, the spokesman added: "We run a tight system and investigate anything lost worth more than £150. However, we are a huge organisation with equipment in places as far-flung as Rwanda, Cambodia and Angola. When equipment is lost it might also be because it fell overboard during a storm."

The MoD also reported that a thermal imager worth £118,000 was missing.

Mr McCartney, MP for Macclesfield, Lancashire, stressed that the figures he had compiled gave only a selective view of Whitehall thefts, as they represented only the information given in parliamentary answers.

Island life: Lundy looks for better publicity – and a second new agent in less than a year



Visitors arriving at Lundy, which has been beset by droughts, storms and press interest in a previous overseer's private life Photograph: Christopher Jones

Harsh times for an island paradise

MICHAEL PRESTAGE

When the rush of Easter trippers to the island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel has abated, the Landmark Trust, the charity that runs the seabird paradise, can concentrate on the task of appointing a new agent to run Lundy's affairs.

Whoever is successful – and applicants are already clamouring to take over responsibility for this tiny idyll – faces the task of restoring confidence in the island and its 20-strong community after a traumatic year.

Life on Lundy usually moves at a sedate pace. Its existence is known mainly to birdwatchers and nature lovers who appreciate the beauty and seclusion of this three mile-long and half mile-wide granite slab 14 miles from the Devon mainland.

But oil spills, tabloid stories of an affair by the then agent with the pub barmaid, a battering from inclement weather and the resignation of the present agent Tony Blackler after only a few months in the post have taken their toll.

At a minimum, Mr Blackler's successor will face the same problems that eventually proved too much for him and



Tony and Cherry Blackler: Isolated life on Lundy led him to resign after only a few months

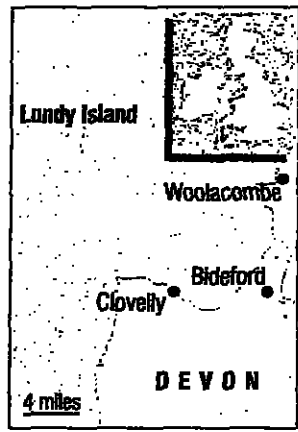
his wife, Cherry. A combination of the weather and Lundy's isolation meant that the dream job was threatening their relationship. "We were apart more time in the seven months than in the previous 13 years of marriage," said Mr Blackler, 50, speaking yesterday from his new home on a smallholding in Cornwall. "There is only one boss on Lundy and that is the weather. I would get stranded on the mainland and it would be days before I could get back to the island."

The final straw came after Mr Blackler attended a meeting on

the mainland on behalf of the Landmark Trust and it was five days before he could get back to Lundy. The couple will return as tourists and in the meantime Mr Blackler said: "Our dining-room is full of pictures of Lundy. It is an idyllic place."

After leaving the island in 1969 the Landmark Trust spent 20 years restoring the buildings that include a working farm, a pub, church, castle and three lighthouses. At best Lundy breaks even financially. Recent setbacks have meant the charity will need EC grants to cope.

The last 12 months have



such as part of the only road being swept away in winter storms and the island's sheep having to be evacuated because of the drought caused by the summer's heatwave could be expected. But both in a year test the precarious finances of Lundy.

Tourism is the main money earner – the Landmark Trust has 23 holiday cottages – and so news reports that the *Sea Empress* tanker disaster in February had spewed crude oil on to the island's beaches was another blow. Happily, the beaches are now completely clear, but what long-term damage has been done remains to be seen in the waters that were in 1986 designated Britain's first statutory Marine Nature Reserve, with excellent conditions for diving and marine research.

Peter Pearce, director of the Landmark Trust, said a new agent for Lundy would need to be resilient and able to cope with the isolated life. The charity is also looking for a couple to run the Marisco Tavern, the island's only pub and restaurant.

Mr Pearce said the agent would be "somebody able to turn their hand to everything and anything and take an active part in island life. It is a unique job in Britain."

Also, given the island's isolated position in the Bristol Channel – exposed to the vagaries of the Atlantic – setbacks

Best vest guide to protect front-line police

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Help has arrived for police officers unsure about how best to protect themselves against gun-toting and knife-wielding attackers – a consumer guide to stab- and bullet-proof vests.

The initiative follows growing pressure for all front-line officers to be equipped with protective vests after a rise in the number of violent assaults against the police involving knives and guns.

The new police manual examines a wide range of protective clothing. Among the qualities tested are the armour's ability to stop a bullet and knife, the weight of the equipment, the area of the body that is protected, and the cost.

High-powered rifles, handguns, and knives are all pitted against the armour. *The Manual of Ballistic and Stab Resistant Body Armour* judges whether equipment passes or fails.

The manual, which is being sent to all 43 forces in England and Wales, is an initiative of the Association of Chief Police Officers' self-defence, arrest and restraint sub-committee, which is headed by Tony Burden, chief constable of Gwent. Chief constables are expected to consult the guide before deciding how best to protect their officers.

Calls for universal body protection have increased in the past year as the number of attacks on the police has grown. Despite tests the Home Office and police have failed to find a universally acceptable design. The situation has become so fraught that hundreds of officers have been using second-hand protective equipment donated by police in the United States.

Only two forces, West Yorkshire and Northumbria, currently supply protective vests to all operational officers. It cost more than £1m to kit the 3,000 West Yorkshire police. Vests cost from £150 to about £350.

In March beat officers from the Metropolitan Police were issued for the first time with body armour that protects against knives and bullets.

Over the last five years, seven Met officers – including PC Philip Walters in April 1995 and Sergeant Derek Robertson in 1994 – have been killed on duty.

A survey of 73,000 rank-and-file officers across the country revealed last year that 90 per cent want covert and overt body armour. More than half said armour was not available. But last year Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, refused to provide any extra money to pay for the vests.

Death of canal twins treated as murder

Police are treating as murder the deaths of identical twins found in the same London canal within eight days of each other, writes Nicole Yeash.

The body of Christopher Henry Langford, 38, was found in Regent Canal in Islington, on 26 March. A post-mortem examination showed various injuries but the cause of death could not be established and is being treated as suspicious.

His identity was established only after the body of his brother, Anthony John, was found 50 yards away in the same canal on 3 April.

A post-mortem examination concluded that Anthony, whose body was wrapped in a blue blanket, died from head injuries and his death is being treated as murder.

Police said both men were heavy drinkers and lived in various hostels around the Islington area. They were unemployed and single. It is believed they had family in the Bedford area.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "It is possible that they may have been involved in some sort of fight among themselves or with other people."

This week in THE INDEPENDENT

This week and every week, Section Two has a new look, with more pages, new features, a daily radio column and an expanded listings section providing Britain's most comprehensive daily guide to going out.

on Monday

A new regular section, Family Life, that deals with the interests and problems of parents and children. Julie Myerson's column also focuses on home life. Plus: a new series – Do we need? – which challenges the icons of modern Britain. And, every Monday unrivalled coverage of the expanding world of information technology in our Network pull-out section.

on Tuesday

Health: how wearing a virtual reality helmet could help cure phobias and other psychological problems. Plus: flaky nails are not simply a problem for the vain

and in Sport

A 24-page tabloid section with all the action from the weekend's sporting action. Plus: the Monday interview in which a leading figure comes under the microscope, an unbeatable results service, gossip, speculation and fact from behind the scenes and the best in sports photography.

but a sign of ill-health, so what can be done about them? Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual arts and media.

on Wednesday

Bridget Jones's diary continues to chronicle the encounters and exquisite embarrassments in the life of Britain's most-read spinster. Plus: the midweek travel section, your money, finance

and law. In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists, present their views of the modern world.

on Thursday

All our regular features, including Virginia Ironside's Dilemmas, John Walsh's column, plus film, education

and graduate plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 10 1/2 inches

on Friday

24Seven – a new 20-page pull-out-and-keep entertainment and listings section. Including a complete day-by-day planner for the week ahead, plus

seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings, ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights. Plus: eight pages of pop and classical music



8
international

Korean stand-off: Border quiet after Northern threats, which may improve Kim's election chances

Pyongyang
warns Seoul
of 'disaster'RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Seoul

North Korea yesterday accused the South of preparing to wage war against it and warned of "irrevocable disaster" as a consequence. But after a tense weekend during which hundreds of North Korean troops entered the border area on three successive nights, there were no more incidents, and the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between the two enemies was quiet last night.

"The Korean peninsula is in the worst situation due to the dangerous military activities of South Korea that can be seen on the eve of war," said the Korean Central News Agency, quoting an article in *Rodong Shinmun*, official organ of the North Korean Workers' Party. "The South Korean puppets must know that if they regard the North's warning as empty talk and display war hysteria, they will face an irrevocable disaster. It goes without saying that their reckless war preparations are manipulated by the bellicose quarters of the United States."

Meanwhile, South Korea said it would shoot any North Korean troops crossing into the Demilitarised Zone. In the past, North Koreans have been given a chance to retreat before being shot at.

In Seoul yesterday the South Korean president, Kim Young

Sam, conferred with his defence minister and generals on the latest incident on Sunday night, when truckloads of soldiers of the Korean People's Army (KPA) carried out exercises at Panmunjom, the only crossing point on the 150-mile-long DMZ.

The incursions began on Friday, the day after Pyongyang announced that it would no longer maintain its obligations in the DMZ, which has divided the two Koreas since an armistice ended the Korean War in 1953. President Kim was quoted as saying "South Korea will not tolerate North Korea's continued threats of reckless provocations." A foreign ministry spokesman said that it had called on 30 countries, including the United States, China, Russia and Japan, to demand that Pyongyang honour its armistice obligations.

A spokesman for the Russian foreign ministry, once one of the North's closest allies, called for "restraint above all from Pyongyang... The main thing is to stick to the armistice accord and not violate it before a new mechanism is worked out."

The commander of the 37,000 US forces in the South, General Gary Luck, met his Korean counterpart yesterday, but the United Nations, which supervises the armistice, continued to play down the seriousness of the incidents.

Coachloads of tourists from the South who visit the border in their hundreds to peer into the North were still being admitted to Panmunjom.

"These are illegal training events," a UN command spokesman said. "The rest of the DMZ is quiet - the same tense, dirty, nasty place it always is." In Washington, the State Department said there was nothing to indicate "an offensive build-up".

Pyongyang's strategy appears to be aimed at pressuring the US into concluding a separate peace treaty with the North, excluding Seoul. But it is complicated by elections to be held on Thursday to the South Korean National Assembly. Until last week, President Kim's New Korea Party (NKP) had been trailing badly and was expected to lose its majority.

The timing of the scare suggests it was intended to undermine the NKP's campaign but its effect may turn out to be the opposite. Mr Kim's statesman-like response may even tip the balance in his party's favour and the NKP estimates it could boost its share of the poll by as much as 4 per cent. A cartoon in the *Munhwa Ilbo* yesterday depicted merry North Korean troops as NKP campaign workers, while opposition leaders looked on from the sidelines, quaking with frustration.

Leading article, page 14



Flashpoint: South Korean soldiers on patrol along the border

Photograph: Reuters

Chinese high
flyer finds his
niche in planesTERESA POOLE
Peking

In a fast-changing economy like China's, all things are possible for those considering a career switch. So when Yuan Yongmin decided that owning a restaurant had its limitations, a move into aeroplane manufacturing looked like a reasonable progression.

One day three years ago, Mr Yuan was in his Keyuan (Source of Science) Restaurant in Peking when friends told him about a group of professors at the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics who had designed a low-cost, ultralight two-seater airplane.

"Since my youth, I have wanted to do something special," he explained. And so, since January this year, Mr Yuan, 39, has been certified as China's only private aircraft manufacturer.

Funded by 22 million yuan (£1.9m) in bank borrowings, Mr Yuan purchased the rights to the Nanjing design and now surveys his production base and new runway at the foot of the Yan-shan mountains, north-west of Peking. In the workshop, the company's sixth aircraft has just been assembled, in much the same way as an overgrown model plane would be, by slotting the pieces together. Made of fibre-glass and driven by a rear propeller, the finished product weighs in at only 240kg, reaches a flying height of 3,500 metres, and sells for about £20,000.

Outside the entrance to the administrative block, a group of spivvy-looking businessmen from Peking parked a new Mercedes. They told Mr Yuan they were interested in buying a couple of his aircraft to start a

recreational flying centre, and wanted immediate delivery. "That's too quick," laughed a suspicious Mr Yuan.

The question is how can a restaurateur suddenly become a small-plane manufacturer in a country where airspace is still controlled by the military? Mr Yuan grew up in the Cultural Revolution, and started work in 1974 in a state restaurant. In 1986 he bought his own restaurant, and the business took off, selling Imperial-style food.

"I was only a restaurant man. I knew nothing about light aircraft," he says. "But I was already interested in aeroplanes. When I heard about the Nanjing design, I was very happy. I knew transport in China was not very good, so many traffic jams. The automobile industry was developing very quickly, but I thought that light aeroplanes would have a future."

The project has been fraught with delays. It took three years to get permits from the Civil Aviation Administration of China, who had never dealt with a private manufacturer. "I never predicted all these difficulties at the beginning. If I had known, I would never have done it," admits Mr Yuan.

His wife now runs the restaurant, whose profits are used to finance the aircraft company. The biggest challenge is who will buy the small planes, which can be used for recreation, crop spraying, aerial photography and remote postal services. So far, Mr Yuan has received orders for about 30.

To celebrate the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997, the company plans to fly one of its light aircraft from Peking to the former colony, air traffic control permitting.

Peering at the past through the wrong end of a telescope

This is a tale of misunderstandings: some minor, some serious, some long ago, others still playing themselves out. Properly speaking, the story begins in 1863, but I knew nothing of it until I came across a lifesize cut-out of a Guardsman - red coat, bearskin and all - in the far south-west of Japan.

At the town of Chiran, 10 miles further on, a replica of a London bus is parked beside a rocky stream. Chiran is famous for two things: a street of samurai houses with exquisite gardens, and its vast Peace Hall, but neither has anything to do with the Number 37 bus route to Peckham. It alone a red telephone kiosk or a post box labelled "The Chase, Clapham Common". Like the Guardsman, they are there to advertise the Anglo-Satsuma Museum.

The Satsuma peninsula is indeed where the little oranges originally came from, but what

SATSUMA DAYS

more could there be to the relationship between England and a corner of Japan that even the Japanese consider remote? Inside the Anglo-Satsuma Museum, I was greeted by an animated dummy wearing a deerstalker and introducing himself as Sherlock Holmes. He in turn gave way to a series of tableaux celebrating "English" life, only viewed through the wrong end of a telescope and nearly a century out of date: men in plus-fours teeing off at St Andrew's, a cottage kitchen in which the dresser was Welsh and the salt and sugar jars were labelled in German. What was going on?

Mr Richardson must have been just as bewildered in 1863, when he blundered into the ret-

inue of the Lord of Satsuma and was promptly cut down by sword-wielding samurai - a "failure to understand Japanese culture" which had dramatic consequences. The story, forgotten in Britain, is told in a series of framed pages from 19th-century issues of the *Illustrated London News*. Not only does it explain why the museum is there, but also how modern Japan came to be.

On hearing of the unfortunate Mr Richardson's death, Queen Victoria's ministers demanded an apology and compensation from the Satsumans, but in their isolation they paid little attention to the Shoguns in Tokyo, never mind some monarch on the other side of the world. That was another

misunderstanding: a British fleet under Admiral Kuper arrived off the Satsuma capital, Kagoshima.

A contemporary screen in Kagoshima's historical museum shows Admiral Kuper's ships bombarding the city. The Satsumans had cannon of their own - a previous lord, Shimazu Nariakira, had built Japan's first factory to produce them. But he died in 1857, and his modernising ideas went with him.

With much of their capital devastated, the Satsumans apologised and paid up: the receipt, signed by the British chargé in Yokohama and dated 12 December 1863, is also on display. The exhibit records what happened next: "They valued old Japanese things and looked down on Western things in Satsuma. But at the same time the Satsuma-England Battle gave an insight to review the achievement of Nariakira, who tried to

introduce scientific technology of the Western world."

The result of this reappraisal was typically Japanese. Within two years, Satsuma had sent students to University College, London to learn Western ways. In 1867, supplied with British arms, uniforms and tactics, the Satsumans marched to Tokyo, removed the Shogun and brought Japan into the modern era. One of the UCL party, Ito Hirobumi, became the country's first prime minister, and in less than half a century Japan would sink the Imperial Russian navy with ships built in the Clyde.

No wonder Anglophilia is rife in Satsuma. But it is a bygone England they admire. For Mrs Tanaka, a Chiran doctor's wife, the crowning moment of her first visit was discovering that the Lake District "looked just like the drawings in the Peter Rabbit books". As we took Earl Grey tea and scones on a



Good old days: The number 37 service to Peckham (above) and uniformed guardsman with bearskin (right)



terrace overlooking the stream - "We call it the Thames" - she explained what had inspired her to create a shrine in which a 19th-century bowler hat and braces are held up for veneration. "The Japanese have become very consumerist. They worship new things. I wanted to

let them see that the English still use and value old things." Once we showed the Japanese the way into the future. Now, it seems, our role is to teach them how to live in the past.

Raymond Whitaker

2 for 1 Lufthansa flights with THE INDEPENDENT
131 destinations worldwide

Take off for a great spring break with The Independent's great value Two For One flight deal.

We've got together with Lufthansa, the award-winning German airline renowned for its warm and friendly service, reliability and quality, to give readers great value on flights to 131 destinations from the Lufthansa global network, with departures from London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

You can choose from a range of destinations throughout Europe, Asia and the Pacific, North and South America, Africa and the Middle East.

There are some superb prices available, with no increase in price if you are travelling from one of Lufthansa's regional airports.

Many flights require a transfer on route to the chosen destination, but Lufthansa make it easy, with most connections taking around 45 minutes in Frankfurt and 35 minutes in Munich.

You must spend a minimum of three nights in Europe, and five nights in intercontinental destinations.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven we will be publishing until Saturday 13 April. Complete an application form to be printed on Thursday 11 April attach your tokens in the space provided and send it to: Independent/Lufthansa Offer, Fenton Way, Basildon, Essex SS15 6SL, to arrive no later than 30 April 1996.

Within 14 days, you will receive an information pack. It will contain your 2 for 1 flight voucher, a booking re-

quest form, booking conditions and flight schedule information. There will also be details of a special offer on Budget Rent-a-car, only available to our readers.

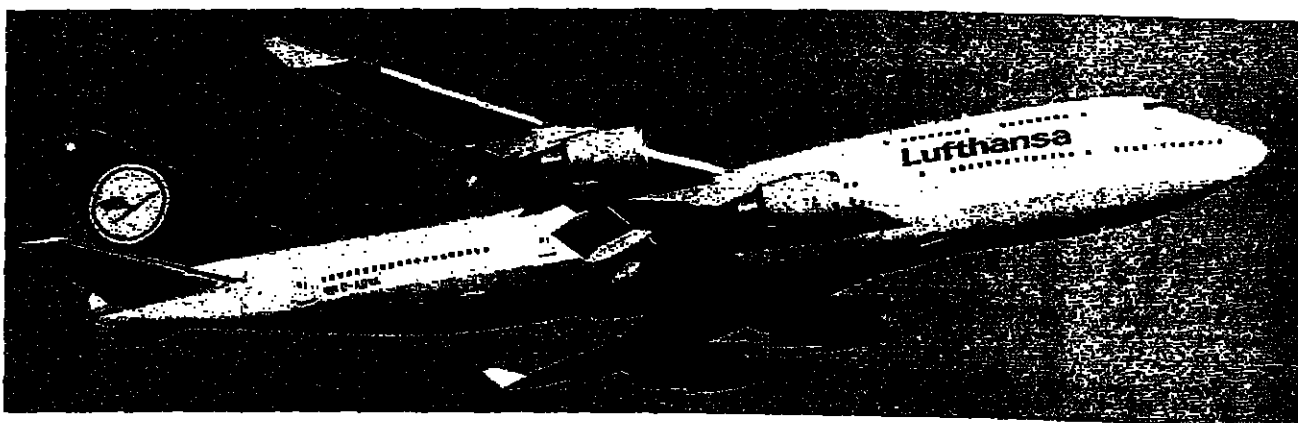
HOW TO BOOK

Decide upon your 2 for 1 departure airport, destination and dates of travel. Fill out the booking request form in your information pack. Then post or fax your completed booking request form to Trailfinders (ABTA 69701 and V0989), our appointed booking agent. You will find full details of their address and fax numbers in your fulfilment pack. No bookings or flight options can be made by phone.

Trailfinders will process your request and confirm if your favoured option is available, in which case Trailfinders will reserve your flights. You will then have 5 working days to pay for your flights in full and to surrender your 2 for 1 voucher. Final payment can be made by cheque or major credit card.

If your favoured option is unavailable Trailfinders will try to suggest an alternative. All bookings must be made at least 7 working days before your first departure date to ensure ticket delivery. Flight tickets will be issued only after payment and surrender of your 2 for 1 voucher. There is no facility to provide tickets at the departure airport. All travel must start no earlier than 22nd April 1996 and no later than 30th June 1996. All travel must be completed by 31st July 1996.

If you have any queries regarding this offer, please call the promotion enquiries helpline on 0345 252252 between 9am and 5pm including weekends and public holidays.



EXPLORE THE WORLD, DISCOVER LUFTHANSA 131 Destinations to choose from

WESTERN EUROPE: Ankara, Antalya, Athens, Barcelona, Basel, Bologna, Copenhagen, Faro, Florence, Geneva, Garmisch, Gothenburg, Graz, Helsinki, Heraklion, Istanbul, Izmir, Linz, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Malaga, Marseille, Milan (Linate), Milan (Malpensa), Naples, Nice, Oslo, Oslo, Pisa, Rome, Rome, Stockholm, Thessalonika, Toulouse, Turin, Venice, Vienna, Zurich.

EASTERN EUROPE: Almaty, Ashgabat, Baku, Belgrade, Bucharest, Budapest, Ekaterinburg, Katowice, Kiev, Minsk, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Odessa, Prague, Riga, Samara, Sofia, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Tashkent, Tirana, Vilnius, Warsaw, Zagreb.

ASIA/PACIFIC: Bangkok, Beijing, Bombay, Delhi, Den Passar, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Karachi, Karamandi, Kuala Lumpur, Madras, Manila, Nagoya, Osaka, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo.

AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST: Abu Dhabi, Accra, Addis Ababa, Alexandria, Amman, Bahrain, Cairo, Cape Town, Casablanca, Damascus, Dubai, Harare, Jeddah, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Kuwait, Lagos, Larnaca, Nairobi, Riyadh, Sana'a, Tehran, Tel Aviv, Tunis, Windhoek.

NORTH AMERICA: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York JFK, Newark, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver, Washington.

SOUTH AMERICA: Bogota, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Lima, Mexico City, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Sao Paulo.

Example Fares and Destinations			
EUROPE:		SOUTH AMERICA:	
Rome	£289	Buenos Aires	£1,159
Stockholm	£259	Caracas	£869
Faro	£259	Mexico City	£729
Vienna	£269	Rio de Janeiro	£1,059
Copenhagen	£259		
Nice	£289		
ASIA/PACIFIC:		AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST:	
Bangkok	£899	Johannesburg	£939
Delhi	£899	Cape Town	£979
Kuala Lumpur	£899		
Bombay	£699		
Hong Kong	£1,059		
Singapore	£899		
Tokyo	£1,139		



Lufthansa

Israel's militia in Lebanon hit by mutiny

ROBERT FISK
Tyre

After desertion comes mutiny. At least, it does in the so-called "South Lebanon Army", which is trained, uniformed and paid by Israel. At least 30 and perhaps as many as 100 of the pro-Israeli militiamen in the Israeli occupation zone in the south of Lebanon have been disarmed after a local officer decided to set up his own

political party, and then withdrew his men from artillery positions opposite the pro-Israeli Hizbollah.

At the same time, Canadian sources have told the *Independent* that about 40 SLA gunmen, without their weapons but with El Al airline tickets issued in Israel, are arriving from Tel Aviv every year to claim political asylum. Morale in the SLA, whose warriors are supposed to be defending Galilee from what the

Israelis call "international terrorism", has now reached such depths that some of its members have turned up in Beirut to seek sanctuary after being forcibly pressed into the militia.

One of their officers told the *Independent* that family members are being threatened by the Israelis with imprisonment in the old French mandate jail at Khiam if they do not provide one young man from each family for the SLA.

The same officer complained that one third of his men's salaries were being paid by the Israelis in fake \$100 bills.

Israel has denied involvement in the forgery of dollar bills. The notes emerging from the Israeli occupation zone are state-of-the-art counterfeits. So many are now circulating in southern Lebanon that United Nations forces in the area have long been forbidden to use any \$100 bills there.

It was at the isolated hilltop village of Khiam that the SLA mutiny began last week. The local militia commander, Riad Abdullah, demanded the right to form a political party and to organise his own "political assembly", ordering several of his men to distribute political pamphlets around the district advertising his intention. When they were arrested, he ordered the withdrawal of at least 30 of his subordinates, although as

many as 100 may have been involved, from Israeli artillery batteries in southern Lebanon, whose gunpits are regularly attacked by the Hizbollah.

Israeli officers immediately ordered the disarming of the mutinous men and Mr Abdullah has been placed under house arrest.

Local Lebanese journalists have been threatened with expulsion from their homes, along with their families, if they continue to send reports about the rebellion to their newspapers in Beirut. The Hizbollah have repeatedly warned over the past six months that, whatever the terms of any future Israeli-Lebanese peace agreement, they will execute any Lebanese militiamen who have worked for Israel in southern Lebanon.

Their plan to break the SLA's morale appears to be working, not least because Israel abandoned many of its proxy

Lebanese allies during an earlier withdrawal in 1985, most of whom were murdered within days of the Israelis' departure.

For the 2,000 SLA members who are still under arms, however, there appears to be no prohibition on the purchase of El Al tickets abroad; which is one reason why the Canadians are trying to discover just how dangerous life is for Israel's proxy army in southern Lebanon.

Civilians flee as war threatens to engulf Liberia

Monrovia (Reuters) — Shooting broke out again in the Liberian capital yesterday and gunmen from rival ethnic factions prowled the streets after clashes at the weekend which forced thousands of civilians to flee from their homes.

A US military assessment team was heading for the city by helicopter from Sierra Leone to decide whether to evacuate US and other foreign nationals because of the clashes which have sparked fears of a return to all-out war. And the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity, Salim Ahmed Salim, warned: "The fighting in Monrovia represents a new, dangerous and unacceptable escalation of the conflict."

The fighting began after a weekend stand-off between supporters of warlord Roosevelt Johnson and the transitional ruling council of state, which has sacked him as a government minister and ordered police to arrest him for murder.

Rival militiamen moved about in the city centre yesterday, particularly around the barracks of the former national army where Mr Johnson was reported to have taken refuge. Diplomats said several thousand civilians had taken refuge in a US embassy annexe and Washington had drafted contingency plans to evacuate US nationals. "The military personnel on the assessment team will determine if, when, where and how we should evacuate, if they decide on evacuation,"

one diplomatic source said.

Diplomats said foreign nationals had been trapped in other parts of the city. "There are a lot of people who are still in their homes. They are confined to their areas," one said.

The radio station of Charles Taylor, the council member whose National Patriotic Front of Liberia launched the civil war in 1989, advised civilians to leave the area of the barracks. "Government military forces and police units are about to carry out a major mop-up operation in the area," it said.

Nearby residents said that militiamen from Mr Johnson's Krahn tribe were coining civilians to go with them into the barracks. Many members of the former national army, the Armed Forces of Liberia, are Krahn. "Johnson forces are asking people to go into the barracks. They want to use us as human shields," one resident said.

Fighting prevented Easter church services in much of the capital of Africa's oldest independent republic, an officially Christian nation founded by freed American slaves in 1847.

The seeds of the crisis go back to February when the council suspended Mr Johnson from the government after commanders in his Ulimo-J faction ousted him as leader. The peace deal agreed by Liberia's warlords and civilian politicians created the six-member ruling council and envisaged a ceasefire. But the killing goes on and the 150,000 death toll continues to rise.



Passover prayers: A man turns away from the Walling Wall during the prayers of Cohenim, or "priestly blessing", in Jerusalem yesterday. Thousands of Jews called Cohen — considered descendants of the second Temple's high priest — gathered in the city for Passover. They were guarded by hundreds of police and soldiers while a small group of extremists tried unsuccessfully to force their way into a nearby Muslim site. Photograph: Reuters

Landlords hunt for freed slaves in Pakistan

TIM MCGIRK
New Delhi

Fears are growing among human rights activists that some of the 140 bonded labourers freed from slavery on Friday may have been re-captured by their feudal owners in southern Pakistan.

When police, acting on a tip from a runaway worker, raided a landowner's farm in Sindh province, they discovered more than 140 labourers, many of them women and children, who were chained while they worked in sugarcane fields. Armed guards watched over them.

Pakistan law prohibits forced and unpaid labour, but many of the freed labourers claimed they had been working for their feudal boss, Abdul Rehman Marri, for more than 25 years, trying to pay off their debts.

The amount of money they had borrowed was tiny, barely enough to buy medicine for a sick child, or pay for a daughter's dowry. But the landlord charged them interest on the loan, so that it grew into a staggering sum that the peasants could never pay off. If a labourer died of over-work, his son had to work off the debt.

Anti-slavery activists found temporary shelter for some freed labourers in Christian churches. But according to Aziz Siddiqi, a director of the Human Rights Commission in Lahore, others may have "drifted into the hands of other feudal landlords in Sindh province".

Mr Siddiqi said: "We're concerned about them. They don't have much of a choice, either to starve in freedom, or to end up again in bondage."

In feudal Sindh, the home province of the Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, Mr Siddiqi says that "there is a pact among the big landowners to co-operate against the workers".

Human rights activists fear that the families who were freed from servitude may be hauled back to the landlord, Mr Marri, who was not arrested.

"Some of these landowners keep families like slaves. They imprison them at night in stockades with high walls and shackle them. Even when the bonded labourers are working in the fields, they are sometimes forced to wear 25kg fetters on their legs," Mr Siddiqi said.

Few landlords are ever arrested, as Sindh's provincial assembly is controlled by feudal landowners. It was only after a peasant fled from Mr Marri's farm and notified the Human Rights Commission in Sindh that police carried out a raid.

The runaway guided them to the farm where the other bonded labourers had been chained up to stop them from escaping.

Human rights workers were forced to flee after the landowner's gunmen fired shots. But the activists returned with police officers and freed the labourers. "Some were children. They were born into slavery and traded back and forth between the landlords," Mr Siddiqi said.

Ogoni anger at activist 'arrests'

FRANK AIGBOGUN
Associated Press

Lagos — Members of the Ogoni ethnic group accused the military regime of detaining hundreds of activists before a UN team arrived in their stronghold in south-eastern Nigeria yesterday.

The fact-finding team was in the city of Port Harcourt, where the military dictatorship hanged the playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni dissidents in November.

The minority Ogonis accused the regime of arresting 30 activists and detaining hundreds of people in advance of the UN visit. One Ogoni leader said he had received death threats. The government denied the reports and alleged the Ogonis were plotting to stir up trouble.



Gen Abacha: Accused of crimes against dissidents

The four-man team, which has been in Nigeria for 11 days, was to meet with Saro-Wiwa's family and with families of the four Ogoni chiefs he was alleged to have murdered.

A letter to the UN team by Ledun Mitee, deputy president of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, said he had been threatened with death if he spoke to the team and hinted it should stay away.

"Before I am killed and another fact-finding team is arranged to probe the circumstances of my death... you may reconsider your planned visit to Ogoni," said the letter published in Lagos newspapers yesterday. "I do not want any more Ogoni to be harmed, molested or killed. We have had enough."

Mr Mitee said government agents had been going from village to village, rounding up anyone they suspected might provide the UN team with claims against the government. The UN visit was prompted by the executions in November,

which were carried out despite international appeals for clemency, and brought international condemnation.

Human rights groups maintain the nine were framed because of their opposition to the military ruler, General Sani Abacha, and to the oil industry. Oil brings in 90 per cent of Nigeria's export earnings, but has destroyed much of the water and farmland in the Ogoni region.

The UN team was given permission to visit several prominent political prisoners, including the jailed dissident Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of the aborted 1993 presidential election, and the former military head of state, Gen Olusegun Obasanjo. They are among dozens of high-profile figures arrested since Gen Abacha took power in 1993.

Great value vehicle rescue.

Cover from just

£29.50*

JOIN TODAY CALL FREE
FREE INFORMATION PACK
0800 000 111

Lines open Monday to Saturday 9am to 7pm
and Sunday 10am to 7pm

REF:CS112



National Breakdown

Post today No stamp needed

TO: GREEN FLAG National Breakdown, FREEPOST, Leeds, West
Yorkshire LS99 2GF. Please send me the INFORMATION PACK.

NAME (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms)

HOME TEL

ADDRESS

COUNTRY

POST CODE

*Plus a once only enrolment fee of £9.50 waived if you join by Direct Debit.
Cars registered before 31/7/87 are subject to additional fee of £22.50.

FANTASY ADVENTURE

CLICKING
IS TRYING TO PREDICT YOUR LIFE,
YOUR FUTURE, AND YOUR SUCCESS

FAITH POPCORN
THE HUSBANDS OF NARRATIVE: FORTUNE
WITH 175 HORRIBLES

or Small Indulgences

The World's foremost trend forecaster
reveals the business predictions
for the next millennium

From all good bookshops

Published 22nd April HB £16.99 Thorsons

first direct

06:30



Ian Francis enjoys his breakfast and settles his Visa bill.

11:15



Jake O'Sullivan teases his mother as she asks about her mortgage.

23:30



Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

change your life change your bank

Not all banks are the same. First Direct set out to change the face of banking in 1989. We were committed to providing a service that enabled customers to arrange their banking around their lives, on their terms. We recognised that bank closing times were a source of bitter frustration, so we are open every hour of every day of the year. One simple phone call, charged at local call rates, gives you access to a comprehensive range of banking services. From loans to sharedealing, savings to travellers cheques. One of our Banking Representatives will be on hand to take your call from wherever you are.

Because First Direct does not need any high street branches, we can invest the cost savings we make into training and new technology. We recruit our staff first and foremost on the basis of their people skills and then equip them with the necessary banking acumen. Our customers find that they are always treated with care and courtesy and we are always looking for new ways to help. Take bill payment — our customers can arrange to pay their household bills by phone, simply telling us who to pay, how much and when. Our approach seems to be well received as 89% of our customers actively recommend us to their friends and colleagues.

Many of our customers find that just a three minute call each month is all it takes to manage their finances. With every First Direct Cheque Account comes the First Direct Card, which guarantees cheques for up to £100. Your Card also allows you to withdraw up to £500 daily from the cash machines of Midland, NatWest, TSB, Clydesdale, Northern and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Incurring punitive bank charges for going a few pounds overdrawn seems as nonsensical to us as it does to you. That's why at First Direct there are no charges for writing cheques, standing orders, direct debits and cash machine withdrawals, even if your account is overdrawn. You also get an automatic overdraft facility of up to £250 free of any arrangement fees, to help with monthly budgeting. All you pay is a competitive rate of interest on the precise amount you borrow.

Changing your bank is far easier than you might expect. It is worthwhile because First Direct has changed banking for good.

The time is right. Call us now on

0800 24 24 24

*Research was undertaken by NPD research among 500 First Direct and 500 other randomly selected bank customers. The surveys were conducted by telephone between November 1994 and January 1995. Customers must be aged 18 or over. In order to safeguard our customers' privacy, no personal information may be passed to third parties without their consent. First Direct reserves the right to disclose to our account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to status. For further details of our services visit our First Direct website. First Direct is a division of First Direct plc, which is regulated by SFA. Member: FSCS. © 1995

Post to: First Direct, Freepost HK 16, Leeds, LS98 2PS. (No stamp needed) to receive more information on First Direct.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title Name

Address

Postcode Telephone (inc. std) 8888

Serbs come to terms with Macedonia

Balkan breakthrough: Deal on forging ties with breakaway state eases region's tensions

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

Rump Yugoslavia and its former republic of Macedonia normalised their relations yesterday, signing a treaty that may reduce tensions in the southern Balkans. Foreign Ministers Milan Milutinovic of Yugoslavia and Ljubomir Frckovski of Macedonia toasted each other with champagne after signing the treaty in Belgrade.

The treaty may enable Yugoslavia, which comprises Serbia and Montenegro, to break out of the international isolation imposed for the Serb role in the wars in Croatia and Bosnia. The European Union said in January that it would not extend full recognition to Yugoslavia unless it normalised relations with Macedonia.

Macedonians voted for independence in September 1991, less than three months after the outbreak of war between Serb forces and the breakaway republics of Slovenia and Croatia. Since then, Macedonia has led a precarious existence, a fact underlined by last year's attempted assassination of the President, Kiro Gligorov.

The state is known formally at the UN as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a formula which reflects Greece's objection that the term Macedonia implies a territorial claim on the northern Greek province of the same name. Greece imposed a trade embargo on Macedonia in 1994 and lifted it last year only after extracting a promise from its neighbour to remove the Star of Vergina, claimed by Greece as an exclusively Greek symbol, from the Macedonian flag.

Macedonia's independence and identity have been vulnerable to pressure from other quarters. Yugoslavia's refusal until yesterday to normalise relations suggested Serbs were reluctant to acknowledge that Macedonia, known in pre-1939

Yugoslavia as "southern Serbia", was now a sovereign state. Meanwhile, Bulgaria recognised Macedonia's independence but not a distinct Macedonian nationality.

Another potential threat to Macedonia's stability comes from its large ethnic Albanian population, concentrated in western regions and representing at least 20 per cent of the state's 2 million people. Albanians allege the Slav Macedonian majority discriminates against them, and want their separate national status enshrined in the constitution.

Yugoslavia has its own Albanian problem in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo, where tensions run high between the Serb authorities and the Albanian majority. The Albanian question is one issue on which Serbs and Slav Macedonians tend to see eye to eye.

Although Yugoslavia has won back some international respectability since helping to negotiate the Bosnian peace accord at Dayton, difficulties plague its relations with several Yugoslav successor states.

Yugoslavia is angry at Slovenia's efforts to reach a separate deal with the London Club of international commercial banks, over its share of the foreign debt, incurred by Communist Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia fears that unless it is recognised as the sole successor to the Communist state, it could lose much of the gold and hard-currency assets that are frozen around the world. For its part, Slovenia wants to establish itself on world capital markets and prepare for entry into the EU.

Yugoslavia's relations with Croatia remain in difficulty because of the occupation by Serb rebels of Croatia's province of eastern Slavonia. The area is due to return to Croat control within two years, but Serbs in the region still hope to block the agreement.



Peace hopes: Worshippers attend Mass in a ruined church as Catholics celebrated their first Easter in post-war Sarajevo

Photograph: Reuters

Iran defends 'humanitarian' arms lift

Tehran (Reuters) — Iran, responding to reports that it secretly sent arms to Bosnian Muslims, said yesterday it had supplied humanitarian aid to Bosnia through legal channels.

The Iranian ambassador to Sarajevo, Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, quoted by the official Iranian news agency, Irna, said: "Iran's humanitarian assistance to Bosnia was carried out

through legal and official channels." He did not say what kind of support Iran gave Bosnia. "He stressed the assistance was offered through various channels, especially Islamic countries and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, and there had been no need for US approval," Irna said.

Last week the *Los Angeles Times* said President Bill Clinton gave the green light to secret arms shipments from Iran to Bosnia's embattled Muslim-led government.

"Based on our Islamic beliefs and our nation's deep sympathy with the Bosnian Muslims, we considered ourselves bound to support and offer assistance," Mr Taherian told Irna.

In Washington, the State Department did not deny the report, but said that despite its opposition to the UN arms embargo — which helped lock in a weapons advantage for Serbs over the Muslims — the administration complied with it.

Eight Islamic states, including Iran, last July declared the UN arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia invalid for Bosnia. In August, Tehran and Sarajevo said they discussed

the possibility of Iranian military aid. They gave no details and Iranian officials have denied any arms had been sent.

Iran's assistance at a critical time when the Muslims had few other allies has helped establish a foothold for Tehran in Bosnia. Reports of Iranian fighters in Bosnia, denied by Tehran, have caused tension between the US and Sarajevo.

French doctors threaten strike over health reform

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

French GPs and specialists are up in arms and threatening a strike later this month in protest against proposed reforms to the health service that will directly affect the way they work.

The reforms, which emphasise spending targets and quality control and resemble in many ways the highly contested NHS reforms in Britain, are part of the comprehensive over-

haul of the welfare system announced by the French government last year to curb spiralling costs.

The proposals are framed in two draft ordinances — measures designed to be rushed through parliament with minimal debate and relate to doctors on the one hand, and to the running of hospitals on the other. In a neat piece of political timing, the ordinances were conveyed to doctors' and hospital representatives over the Easter week-

end, making it difficult for them to mobilise an immediate response.

Leaders of the biggest doctors' association, the Confederation of French Medical Unions, were nonetheless so incensed that they have already called a strike for 24 April, the day on which the French Cabinet is to finalise the provisions.

One reason for the doctors' anger is their apparent failure to have the threat of financial sanctions removed. When the

health and welfare reforms were first announced last autumn, the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, mooted the possibility of freezing fees or docking money from doctors who exceeded state-set spending targets.

Through the weeks of public-service strikes, which were directed primarily against proposed changes to the social security and pension system, the doctors were quiet. Behind the scenes, they were conducting an intense lobbying campaign,

which they believed to have been successful. The draft ordinance on doctors' practice shows, however, that the proposed sanctions have, if anything, been toughened.

Doctors will face a freeze on their fees if they exceed the annual spending target — this year set at an increase of 2.1 per cent over last year. In addition, individual doctors face the prospect of returning to the health insurance companies the amount they are deemed to

have overspent. The howls of anguish were immediate.

The proposed hospital reform includes the creation of regional health agencies to negotiate contracts between the state and medical insurance companies on the one hand and the hospitals on the other. The contracts will contain requirements for quality of care, as well as budgetary stipulations.

It is unclear whether the government's tougher stance on health reform is a bargain-

ing tactic designed to leave room for big concessions in the event of serious protest, or whether it is final. The doctors, however, fear the worst. They cite a recent estimate by the economy minister, Jean Arthuis, that the health and social security budget could overspend by more than twice the estimated 17bn francs. Although Mr Arthuis's deputy described the figure as "random", doctors fear they might have to pick up the tab.

State of emergency

Colombo — With the government still embroiled in a civil war against Tamil rebels, the president has proclaimed a nationwide state of emergency that gives her sweeping legal and military powers. The opposition criticised the move as an attempt to curb political activity.

Visionary thinkers

Peking — Hoping to draw more tourists to their little-known temple, monks at Yongquan monastery have paid \$20,000 to advertise on local television. They wanted to "better communicate with the outside world."

Pollution charges

Manila — Officials said yesterday they were filing criminal charges against executives of Marcooper and threatened to blacklist the partly Canadian-owned mining firm after its toxic waste swamped a 15-mile river.

Islamists raided

Kuwait — Police seized light weapons in raids on houses belonging to a group of Islamists who threatened a journalist with a pistol over a cartoon deemed offensive to Islam, the *Arab Times* reported.

Body parts arrest

Hackensack, New Jersey — Russian immigrant Vladimir Zelemin, 40, was being held on suspicion of dumping body parts in plastic bags into a New Jersey river.

Last sighting

Phnom Penh — A British landmine removal expert and his Cambodian interpreter, taken captive two weeks ago by an armed gang, were seen alive last week. Christopher Howes, 36, from Bristol, was working with a team of Cambodian mine removers.

Molester released

San Antonio — A self-professed "child-molesting demon" was released from prison after agreeing to "unprecedented" parole restrictions. Larry McQuay has asked to be castrated in the hope that it will stop his urge to molest.

Chechen assault

Grozny — Russian troops conducted intensive combat operations in south-eastern Chechnya yesterday, in an effort to drive rebel forces out of two of their mountain strongholds.

Rebel Kurds killed

Tunceli, Turkey — Security officials said yesterday that 27 soldiers and 90 Kurdish rebels had been killed in three days of harsh fighting in the country's south-east.

The clashes, in the mountainous north of the province of Diyarbakir and in the nearby Bingol, were some of the bloodiest in the 12-year-old campaign by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) for autonomy or independence in the region. *Reuters*

Islanders set to be rid of carping Governor

PHIL DAVISON
Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

The controversial British governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Martin Bourke, may be replaced in September as a result of pressure from the Caribbean islanders. Local politicians who went to London last week to demand his recall said yesterday they had been given to understand by the Foreign Office that he would not stay beyond September.

In a statement accusing Mr Bourke of "blatant and mischievous lies" by suggesting they had threatened him with violence, the politicians hinted a compromise had been reached whereby he would not remain beyond the minimum three-year term. He took over in 1993 with an open-ended term. The statement, signed by the Chief Minister, Derek Taylor, and the opposition leader, Washington Misick, said: "We believe it to be in the interests of all parties, particularly Mr Bourke, that he should be allowed to leave at the earliest possible opportunity." It was implied local leaders would refuse to co-operate with him during the rest of his term.

Commenting on a Foreign Office statement that they had threatened violence, the politicians said: "Violence will not form part of this struggle. We may not be on hand to wish him farewell but we are determined that Mr Bourke should leave in good health."

Mr Bourke, 49, angered most of the 15,000 islanders earlier this year when he spoke in an interview of drug-trafficking, rising crime and corruption. The politicians said his com-



Eye of the storm: Martin Bourke, the Turks and Caicos Governor, outside his residence

Photograph: Paul Grover

ments would hinder badly needed investment, particularly in tourism and offshore finance. Mr Bourke also upset many when he was flown on a private jet to Miami last month for an appendectomy rather than being operated on here.

At last week's Whitehall meeting the Foreign Office rejected demands for his recall. Questioned about yesterday's statement, locals said they thought a compromise under which the Governor would leave at the end of the minimum term was the only face-saving solution for both sides.

In an interview at the weekend with the *Independent*, Mr Bourke said he was concerned for his safety and that of his wife, Anne Marie. "Violence is not unknown here," he said. "Burning down buildings is not unknown. When you have drugs and politics, nasty things happen." Mr Bourke used to be seen regularly around Grand Turk, the island which is the seat of government, in his "limousine" — a white-painted London taxi. "You'd see him from time

to time in the Turk's Head bar or the Nookie Hill Club," said one resident. "But he's not venturing out much any more."

Mr Bourke, whose main duty is to take part in the weekly cabinet meeting, spent Easter trying to arrange the repatriation of 70 people from the Dominican Republic who arrived illegally last week. Growing numbers of people from the Dominican Republic and, more so, Haiti, have become the Turks and Caicos's main problem.

Officials say there may be about 6,000 illegal Haitians here, along with 5,000 legal, making the Haitian contingent almost as big as the population of natives and "belongers" (citizens granted citizenship). Locals blame the Haitians for much of the rise in crime, mostly burglaries. Officials say there is a Haitian mafia in the Haitian port of Cap-Haitien which charges people about \$700 (\$460) for the trip, dropping them off in the shallow waters off the coast of the island of Providenciales and often telling them they are in Florida.

IF ORANGE HAD
SOLD YOU
THIS NEWSPAPER
YOU'D ONLY
HAVE THE FIRST
10 PAGES.

60
minutes maximum for
£29.38 on talk 60⁺
orange

125
MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR
£26.44 ON REGULAR CALLER PLUS⁺
CELLNET

RING 0800 21 4000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.



OUR
GAS IS
PRICE
LESS

Gas is a valuable source of energy.

But that doesn't mean you should have to pay over the odds for your supply.

With Amerada Hess, you won't. Because, if your current bill is over £1,100 a year, switching to low cost gas from Amerada can save you a tidy sum.

To find out how much, just ring us for a quote.

There'll be no new pipes, roadworks or inconvenience. Just something to treasure...

Lower bills.



AMERADA HESS GAS

CALL 0500 00 11 00

BRINGING LOW COST
GAS TO BRITAIN

*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs 125 min max of off-peak calls. Minimum reduces when peak-time calls are made. Telecom Securities Cellular Radio.

April 10 1996

\$500,000-a-day siege declines to spring any Easter surprises

Country life goes on despite a tense stand-off, **Tim Cornwell** discovers in Jordan, Montana

The word at the Hell Creek bar, where the FBI, ranchers, and camera crews drink out their lonely evenings in Jordan, is that the government operation against the Montana Freemen is costing more than \$500,000 (£330,000) a day.

But yesterday there was no sign of an end to the stand-off, in which the FBI has surrounded a collection of bankrupt sheep ranchers and anti-government commun who promised to pay their debts with

homemade money orders. Two weeks after agents arrested three Freemen leaders and issued warrants for eight others, there was no sign that the fugitives were ready to give themselves up from their self-proclaimed Justus Township, a ranch 40 miles from Jordan, as officials had begun to hope at the weekend.

"It is a very, very volatile situation," said Joe Quilici, a Montana legislator and member of the negotiating team that met twice with Freemen leaders last week in a trailer 200 yards from their farmhouse.

"It is so deep and complicated, it's hard to get a handle."

The Freemen and the television crews overlooking the ranch spent a peaceful Easter studying each other through

binoculars at a safe distance.

The FBI, though they man every crossroad for miles, were nowhere to be seen. The Freemen could be seen sitting on deckchairs in the sunset, clutching drinks, waving occasionally. They have warned the media to stay at least a quarter of a mile away and are said to be heavily armed.

"Here he comes... come out

buddy," a cameraman whispered to his television monitor and then struggled in the dusk light to capture the most vivid image of the weekend: a little girl venturing out of the house carrying an Easter basket, followed by a man with a rifle over his shoulder. Three men standing by a truck on a bluff about two miles away were manning a Freemen outpost and they

changed shifts at teatime. Earlier, two young girls rode a horse. Geese honked as they flew over the ranch's pond, and a neighbouring farmer chased down a calf, in a curiously bucolic scene.

The Freemen are led by men like Leroy Schweitzer, 57, a former crop-dusting pilot who travelled the country offering financial classes in which he

handed out fake money orders drawn on fictitious banks. Hundreds of people, including many struggling farmers, paid \$300 to sign up. Mr Schweitzer was one of the first to be arrested, but a close associate is still in the besieged ranch.

Other Freemen include a family on the run from criminal charges associated with far-right anti-tax groups in North

Carolina, and a 10-year-old girl with her mother, who is a member of a fringe religious cult.

But most of the Freemen are members of two long-established families of third- and fourth-generation ranchers, the Stantons and the Clarks, who have lost legal possession of family land after running up millions of dollars in farm loans.

After threatening to hang the local sheriff, and handing out fake cheques, they now face several years in jail.

Hawaii moves to legalise gay marriages

RIPERT CORNWELL
Washington

Admiration is approaching in the bitterly divisive argument here over gay marriages, as Hawaii moves towards becoming the first state formally to legalise the practice - the latest round in a controversy which pits liberals against conservatives, state against state, and which could have an impact on the presidential election campaign this autumn.

Barring a major surprise in the courts, it seems likely that, despite the furious efforts of Christian and conservative groups across the country, Hawaii will have no choice but to put a gay or lesbian marriage on the same legal footing as one between a man and a woman within the next few weeks.

Driving the issue is a complaint first filed in 1991 by three homosexual couples in Hawaii that they were discriminated against when the state refused to allow them marriage licences. The case, requiring Hawaii to show a "compelling interest" for its action, is due to be ruled upon by an appeals court in August. Most legal experts believe the state will lose, especially since Hawaii's own constitution outlaws discrimination based upon sex.

The outcome could be legal

chaos across the country. In an effort to pre-empt Hawaii, four states - Utah, Idaho, South Dakota and most recently Georgia last week - have passed laws explicitly banning recognition of same-sex marriages carried out elsewhere. A dozen have rejected such a measure, but 15 others are still debating it, several of them states where Christian fundamentalists wield much influence.

This in turn raises a constitutional quandary which only the Supreme Court can resolve. Gay marriages will be legal in some states and not in others. Unlike Hawaii's constitution, the US Constitution does not ban discrimination on the basis of sex.

But it does require that each state give "full faith and credit" to the "public acts and proceedings" of another.

Thus gay couples may flock to Hawaii to marry and obtain the rights which marriage brings, and then demand those rights be respected in their home state as well.

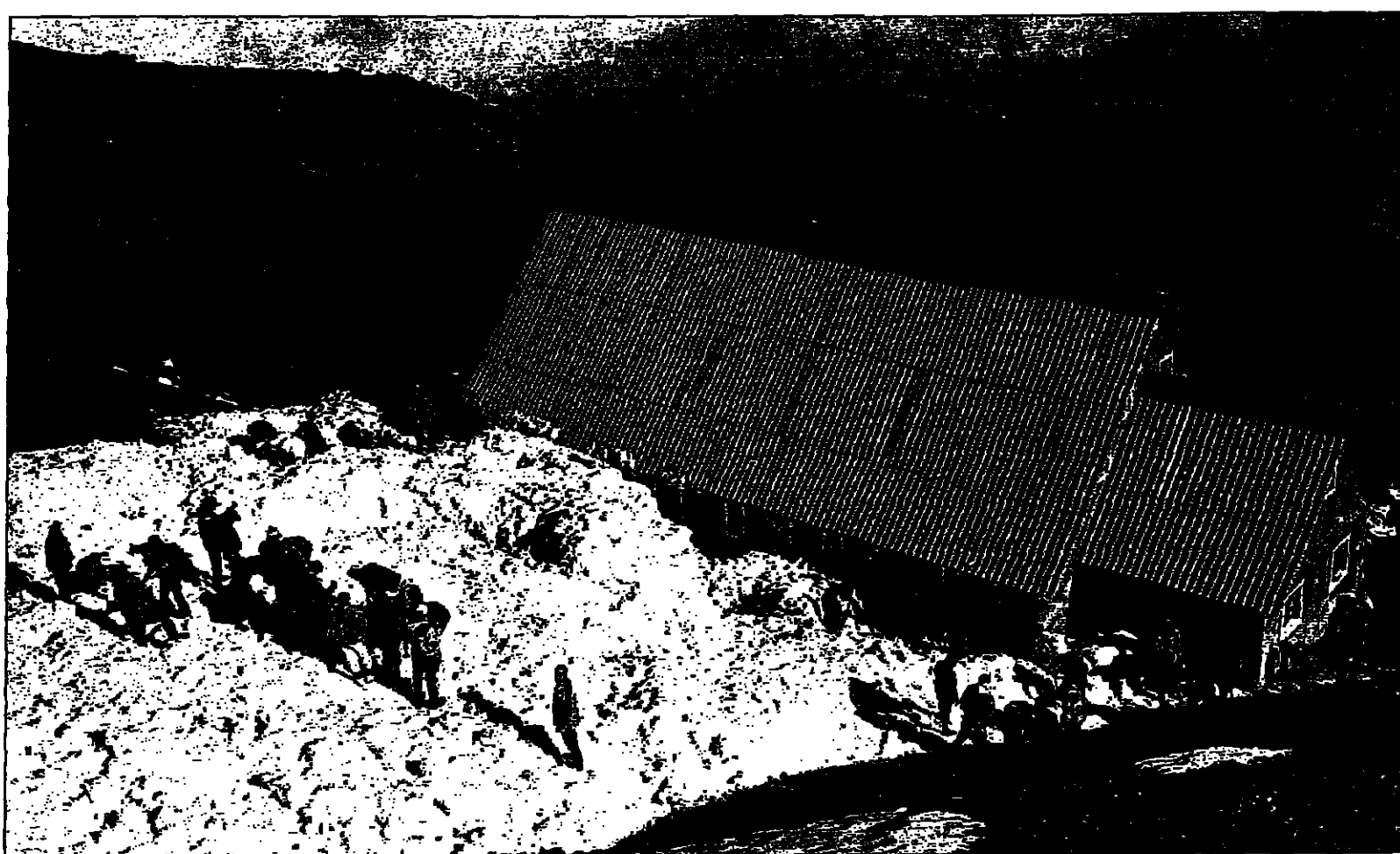
The rights in question affect everything from pensions and social-security benefits to taxation, alimony and divorce, even child custody and the immigration rights of a spouse/partner from another country. But, however weighty, those considerations pale beside the ba-

sic moral controversy, which could have a bearing on the presidential campaign.

Homosexual groups, an increasingly well-organised force, say marriage is a basic human right. They argue that to extend it to gays as well will only enhance the "family values" and social stability so dear to both major parties. Even so, both Democrats and Republicans will have to tread exceedingly carefully on the issue.

During his 1992 election campaign, President Bill Clinton wooed the gay community with some success - only to see his support for the right of homosexuals to serve in the military create a controversy the following year which shook his young administration to its roots. Since then the White House has not breathed a word on the issue.

And Bob Dole, Senate Majority Leader and Mr Clinton's presumed opponent in November, has also had problems negotiating the hazards of gay politics. Last year Mr Dole accepted a campaign donation from the Log Cabin gay rights group, only to have aides return it when he was told of its source. That volte-face, however, was criticised as a cave-in to the religious right - with the result that Mr Dole changed his mind again and accepted the money.



Rescue workers search for survivors after an avalanche on Mount Cotopaxi, Ecuador, the highest active volcano in the world, at 5,897 metres. Local reports said 30 people had been buried in the snow; nine were confirmed dead

Photograph: Claudia Daut

Suspect's brother agonised over Unabomber

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

David Kaczynski agonised for more than six months before alerting the FBI to his suspicions that his brother, Theodore, arrested last Wednesday in Montana on charges of possessing explosives, might be the notorious Unabomber whose letter-

bombs have killed three people and injured 23 across America over the past 18 years.

Tony Biscaglie, the Kaczynski family lawyer, said yesterday that David Kaczynski first began to suspect his brother last summer after reading accounts of the locations where the bombs had been mailed. In September, however, his fears

were amplified with the publication in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* of a manifesto by the Unabomber. "David Kaczynski read the manifesto with the idea that he would be able to immediately discount any connection between his brother and the Unabomber," Mr Biscaglie said. "Unfortunately, when he read

the manifesto, he was unable to do that."

In October, driven by a "very sincere desire to ensure that no further lives were lost", David Kaczynski gathered samples of his brother's writings and consulted experts who "concluded that there was a significant probability that that the manifesto and these writings were

written by the same individual," Mr Biscaglie said. He added that David had gone through "a great deal of anguish" before deciding to report his brother. "This is a very loving family."

The FBI was said yesterday to be accumulating evidence to upgrade the charge against Theodore Kaczynski from possession of explosives to murder.

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

At only **13.8% APR**

look at what our lowest rate ever could do for you

What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank	48 monthly repayments	Total amount payable	APR
Hamilton Direct Bank	£112.79	£5,413.92	16.9%
Hamilton Direct Bank	£116.10	£5,668.80	19.9%
Hamilton Direct Bank	£116.33	£5,583.84	18.9%
Hamilton Direct Bank	£116.00	£5,568.00	18.7%

You'll see in the table above how our lowest rate ever compares to those of some of our competitors. With Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, you can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any amount from £500 to £10,000 for absolutely any reason. For example, buying a new car, paying off your credit cards or building a new kitchen. So why not take advantage of our attractive fixed rates:

***13.8% APR**
on unsecured Personal Loans from £5,000 to £10,000.

16.9% APR
on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £4,999.

HAMILTON
Direct Bank
A Division of HFC Bank plc

We have the money to hand.

Call now to find out what your repayments could be on
FREEPHONE 0800 30 3000

*For generally available Personal Loans. *Loans for business or investment purposes are excluded. This offer is not available in the Isle of Man. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 24 years or over and in receipt of a regular income. The minimum loan is £500. For your security and to improve our service to you, we may record or monitor calls made to and from Hamilton Direct Bank.

Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987. Registered Office: North Street, Winkfield, Berkshire SL4 4TD. Registered in England No. 1117305.

Save now. (You could pay for it later.)

	RAC Rescue	Green Flag Recovery only
Cover in any car	Yes	No
Price (per annum)	£36	£29.50
Labour & call-out charge	No	Yes
Accident Service	Yes	No

At first glance, motoring organisations may look the same. But, on closer inspection, there are big differences. Choose the cheaper cover in the table shown and you'll pay £29.50. If you then break down, the motoring organisation will attempt to repair you at the roadside, but you will be charged for call-out, labour and parts.

If, however, you pay £36 for RAC Rescue, we aim to get you back on the road straight away, without any charge for the call-out, or our labour. (In the last year, our patrols fixed 80% of breakdowns at the roadside.)

But the differences don't stop there. Because we cover you in any car - as a driver or passenger - you can feel completely reassured whenever you take to the road.

We'll also provide a replacement car if yours is involved in an accident - if it is repaired at an RAC Approved Accident Repairer.

So don't settle for the cheap option. Enjoy Britain's best value breakdown cover. Call free today for further details on 0800 029 029. Alternatively, just complete and return the FREEPOST coupon.

PHONE FREE TODAY ON
0800 029 029
OR INTERNET
<http://www.rac.co.uk/>

AND QUOTE SS2076/3/XX

FREE
RAC ROAD ATLAS
RRP £8.99

When you join the RAC today



YES - I want to join the RAC.
Please tell me how I can join from just £36*

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode

Send to: RAC Rescue, FREEPOST,
Bristol BS38 7AU. (No stamp needed.)

*Rescue costs £36 if you pay by Continuous Credit Card Authority or Direct Debit. Cash settlement price is £48 and discount applies to 1 year first year membership only. All prices include an enrolment fee. Please times open Monday - Friday 9am - 8pm. Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm.

ST0006/SS2075/3/XX



obituaries/gazette

Professor Brian Abel-Smith

Some great people are insufficiently appreciated in their lifetime – and among them are those who avoid the limelight quite deliberately. Brian Abel-Smith matched sheer brilliance with genuine modesty.

His contributions to government, international health and health services, politics and social policy read like the considerable careers of four separate people, equally intriguing and full of influence and vitality.

It was the National Health Service which earned his particular devotion. He did more than anyone to acquaint others with the reasons for its existence – and how it had to be adapted to new circumstances. His books on *The Cost of the Health Service in England and Wales* (with Richard Titmuss), 1956; *A History of the Nursing Profession*, 1960; *Paying for Health Services*, 1963; *The Hospitals 1800-1948*, 1964; established a formidable case for a comprehensive public service and are still among the best things any student can read. He was a member of different government committees defending – but developing – the NHS.

The flow of work on health services continued throughout the 1970s to the 1990s: *An International Study of Health Expenditure*, 1967; *Value for Money in Health Services*, 1976; *National Health Service: the first 30 years*, 1978; *The Organisation, Financing and Cost of Health Care in the European Community*, 1979; *Planning the Finances of the Health Sector*, 1989; and *An Introduction to Health Policy, Planning and Financing*, 1994. This work on health became vigorously cross-national. He was employed part-time by the World Health Organisation from 1957 onwards, and his contributions to health services in Europe and poor countries outside Europe, starting in Mauritius and continuing until, most lately, in Indonesia, made him more influential elsewhere than in his own country.

I came to know him first as someone who was apparently an aristocrat with royal connections (at the time he was said to be 27th in line to the throne) and who happened to be writing a PhD on health at Cambridge University. During those early years he also wrote a paper on

the definition of poverty. I was writing independently at the same time, and interviewing scores of families, on the same subject. These two interests brought us together and remained dominant in our lives for the next 40 years.

His contributions to government are less well known than to academic social science and for that reason especially intriguing. Both of us had joined the Fabian Society (begun in the 1880s by Shaw, Wells and others to plan socialist policies), and sought to give it more social purpose. We wrote a pamphlet, "New Pensions for the Old", on the future of pensions in 1955 and were invited by the Labour politician Dick Crossman to join himself and Richard Titmuss, one of the formative influences on the post-war Welfare State, to prepare a new Labour Party plan for national superannuation, which was published in 1957 and endorsed at the Party's annual conference.

Richard Titmuss had the policy judgement and I had some of the sociological knowledge of family living conditions, but Brian Abel-Smith had the economic skill and dexterity to make this a visionary as well as a politically appealing document. Hugh Gaiskill, sceptical of Crossman, asked his most dependable expert on the economy, Tony Crosland, to check it out.

I recall evenings in Vincent Square, Westminster, lolling on armchairs, each trying (and Abel-Smith successfully) to outbid Crosland's command of the vernacular as well as of the economic technicalities. There were sparkling exchanges, few amendments needed to be made. Crosland reported back, satisfied. We all learned of the benefits to be derived from producing planning documents in this way, and subjecting them to merciless scrutiny.

Abel-Smith had been picked out in the 1950s by Hugh Dalton, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, as someone with a potentially glittering political future. Few of us had any doubt about his capacity for leadership in the Treasury. He refused to apply for safe seats, more because of the risk of public humiliation if he was discovered to be homosexual than anything else. I have always wondered

what might have happened had he come to intellectual maturity 15 years later. He became instead probably the most influential political adviser appointed by successive Labour governments, first in 1968 to Crossman, and then, in turn, to Barbara Castle, David Ennals and finally Peter Shore.

He chose back-room political advice to successive senior ministers at the expense of his academic research career. He was also too much of a socialist in the 1960s to accept a life peerage. Cabinet ministers grew to depend on his total discretion and, unusually, he earned glowing tributes from career civil servants.

Affordable, adequate welfare, detailed planning on behalf of the underdog, universal public services – these were his cardinal values. Would that they were general today – as he reflected in a letter to me only weeks ago. He was the powerful figure behind a list of measures on pensions, health services, disability allowances and community care which did much to make Britain a more settled and less divided country in the 1960s and 1970s than it has since become.

During these years at the heart of government he gave indefatigable support behind the scenes as Treasurer, and later Vice-President, of the Fabian Society. As a socialist he appreciated the importance not just of creating public institutions but standing by them through thick and thin. He played a big part in the foundation of the Child Poverty Action Group, and was Governor of St Thomas' Hospital for many years. Most importantly, he supported the cause of social policy at the London School of Economics, and played a key part administratively for more than three decades.

His capacity for penetrating, indeed adventurous, analysis, led to one of the most original contributions to the social sciences of this century. His book with Robert Stevens, *Lawyers and the Courts* (1967), was a sociological study of the English legal system from 1750 to 1965 which showed its social origins and mode of control and helped to make an unanswerable case for its modernisation. The sequel, *In Search of Justice*



Abel-Smith: established a formidable case for a comprehensive health service

(1968), went on to show the failings of the legal system as a social service and, had it got the attention it deserved, might have led to some of the root and branch changes which are now all too obviously needed.

His wit could be disarming, and could be applied with devastating, but also fundamentally constructive, effects. Once he unravelled Florence Nightingale's reputation (whom he also revered) before a group of Nightingale nurses. They were never the same again. Deeply radical people have an ability to analyse figures who are almost mythical and turn them into recognisable human beings.

Along with Barbara Wootton he is a relatively neglected cre-

ative genius of post-war social policy in Britain. Perhaps this is because he was both distinguished social scientist and politician *manqué*. Perhaps it is because he was unreservedly loyal to Richard Titmuss and the department at LSE which played such a big part in the analysis of the maturing Welfare State. He lacked envy and had that inner strength which allowed his private life to be rich indeed – as friends discovered in marvelling at his gardening and culinary skills. These were both built hugely on his stable home with John Sarbutt – a marvellous foil to his appreciation of human strength and frailty and a force which enabled both to match

private strength with public worth.

Peter Townsend

Brian Abel-Smith, social scientist and government policy adviser, born London 6 November 1926; Assistant Lecturer in Social Science, LSE 1955-57; Lecturer 1957-61; Reader in Social Administration, London University (at LSE) 1961-63; Professor of Social Administration 1965-91; consultant and adviser, World Health Organisation 1967-96; Special Adviser to Secretary of State for Social Services 1968-70; 1974-78; to Secretary of State for the Environment 1978-79; Adviser to the Commissioner for Social Affairs, EEC 1977-80; died London 4 April 1996.

Sacha Rabinovitch

Sacha Rabinovitch, known to some people as the mother of the distinguished novelist, playwright and critic Gabriel Josipovitch, was a gifted and fascinating literary figure in her own right.

She and her son had an exceptionally close and loving relationship, unusual in this day and age – conventional people spoke behind their hands of untoward influence. But Rabinovitch, like her son, scorned conventions. These two strong, austere but generous and affectionate characters, always respectful of each other's autonomy and creativity, lived together in a mutual support system, personal and professional.

The son's brilliance may have outshone the mother's in terms of primary output, but she was never in his shadow. Both spoke their minds and were the first to detect a weakness in a piece of writing or an argument of the other.

In terms of Jewish ethno-cultural origins, Sacha Rabinovitch was an unusual mixture. Her mother's mother's family were Cattanis, members of the Cairo Jewish elite, some of whom could trace their ancestry back 2,000 years through rabbinic lines – or so the wife of Edmond Jabès, herself a Cattan and a cousin of Rabinovitch, told me. (Our respective views on the importance of Edmond Jabès as a writer led to one of the few major disagreements between myself and Sacha Rabinovitch.)

Rabinovitch's maternal grandfather was from Ferrara and, like Jabès himself, Sacha Rabinovitch had an Italian passport. But her father was an Ashkenazi Jew, a Russian doctor from Odessa who had settled in Cairo after fighting in the Russo-Japanese war. She had TB as a child, which doubtless accounted for her spare and wiry frame, but she survived to marry Jean Josipovitch in 1934. Jean's father Albert had written a novel, *Golah le simple*, famous in its time, which was shortlisted for the Prix Goncourt the year Marcel Proust won it – 1919.

They moved to France, to Aix, where they met the novelist Jean Giono while doing post-graduate work. In Venice they associated with André Gide. Later on, as Jews, it was obvious that they would have to leave Europe. The last possible passage back to Egypt was due to set sail on 8 October 1940. But Rabinovitch's son was born that day... What is more, her husband had gone off with someone else, and thus she found herself alone with Gabriel, and in a very dangerous situation.

But in 1943, with the help of friends they made for La Bourboule, a spa town in the Dordogne, where Gabriel remembers her carving him wooden toys, and wooden letters so he could learn to read. A visit from her husband eventually resulted in the birth of a daughter, but the child died five weeks later.

After the war was over, Sacha and Gabriel finally made it back to Egypt, where she worked at and he attended an English-style public school – Victoria College, alma mater of King Hussein and Edward Said. But even before the Suez crisis many Jews felt they had to leave Egypt. Rabinovitch's dream anyway was that Gabriel

should go to Oxford – and so they left, and so he did. Notwithstanding various complications with the Egyptian authorities, and the British Home Office which settled in London where she worked as a shop assistant, and renewed a passionate love affair – now as reader and writer – with the English language.

After Gabriel graduated she joined him in Oxford, and then they moved to Lewes where they lived, with various animals, for the next 30 years. While Gabriel taught at Sussex University and embarked on his distinguished career as a writer, Sacha Rabinovitch embarked on her own Anglophone career as an excellent translator and well-respected poet – a remarkable and characteristic transformation, and a defiance of the law which states that you translate into your mother tongue, and you write poetry in your mother tongue.

She translated books by very difficult French writers such as Maurice Blanchot (*The Sirens*), selected essays, 1982) and Marthe Robert (*Origins of the Novel*, 1980), and several novels of the great Sicilian writer, Leonardo Sciascia (including *The Moro Affair*, 1986). She also translated Paolo Rostri's *Francia Bacca: From Magic to Science* for which she won the Floto Prize for the best Italian translation of 1969. Two volumes of her poetry were published by small presses – *Heroes and Others* in 1982 and *Poems in 1994*. Poems by her were also printed in publications including *The Independent* and the *Jewish Quarterly*, where her last poem appeared a week before her death from "old age", according to her death certificate.

She is buried, like her beloved Paul Valéry, in a ceme-



Rabinovitch: indomitable Photograph: Lesley Howling

tery by the sea, in her case the Howe Jewish cemetery. She was tired and ill – and unafraid – ready to "drop the body" (as some Indians say). On her 80th birthday I was proud to publish a poem of hers in my MenCard series: ("I cannot keep up with myself anymore, and will still be wandering / on the way / when I lie at rest / in my cloak of clay") but, other than our lively discussions about French literature, my abiding memory of this indomitable old lady – who lived for her son without neglecting her own needs – is of a 10-mile walk over the Downs with good friends when she was already 80.

Anthony Rudolph

Sacha Rabinovitch, translator and poet; born Cairo 9 December 1910; married 1934 Jean Josipovitch (one son and one daughter deceased; marriage dissolved); died Brighton 23 March 1996.

Olga Rudge

I don't believe that Allen Ginsberg was quite the welcome guest to the Pound / Rudge household that Peter Russell suggests, at least not as far as Olga Rudge was concerned, writes William Blacker [further to the obituary of 25 March]. I distinctly remember her telling me how Ginsberg, of whom, she said, neither of them had heard, came outside their house near Rapallo with some friends, started to make extraordinary wailing noises (apparently Hare Krishna chants in American accents) and refused to go away until the great poet agreed to see them. In other words, Ezra Pound only saw him in order to get rid of him. It made Rudge angry when people said that Ginsberg had been a friend of Pound's.

After Pound died in 1972, Rudge remained alone in Venice and was a familiar sight

there walking slowly through the streets wearing a white hat, white coat, white-rimmed owl-like dark glasses, and using a white umbrella as a walking stick.

I knew her only towards the end of her life. I met her in 1987 when she was 92 (I was 24), but even then, and even when I last saw her when she was 98, she was still full of the extraordinary energy and enthusiasm of which Russell speaks, and usually had a beaming smile on her face. The first time I met her was at a lecture given in Venice on the last night of the carnival. On leaving everyone told her that she should take the back route home to avoid being knocked over by the noisy, boisterous people singing and dancing in the crowded streets. "But it is precisely the people dancing and singing that I want to see," she replied, and off she went.

Gordon Clough

Gordon Clough was one of the founders of modern radio journalism.

An early member of the elite stable of *The World At One* under Andrew Boyle and William Hardcastle, he deployed wide learning (lightly), acute journalism and a beautiful baritone voice from the presenter's chair of *The World At One*, *PM*, and *The World This Weekend*, from the 1970s to the early Nineties.

A scholarship boy from Bolton School, he read French and Russian at Magdalen College, Oxford. After "bobbing about in a boat on the Baltic" listening in to Soviet radio traffic during National Service, he joined the BBC's Russian Service and was banned from entering the Soviet Union as an alleged former spy. He was to overcome that calamity later in his career.

In 1968 he joined mainstream radio journalism and soon made his mark, particularly in *The World This Weekend*, where he thrived by interviewing politicians reflectively, even rudely, years before the political interview had become a commonplace of weekend broadcasting.

At first meeting his guests were often surprised to see that the owner of the big beautiful voice was a small scruffy man, and Gordon Clough exuded a vulnerability that made some of the most unlikely people want to protect him.

Summoned to Chequers to interview the Prime Minister in the early-Eighties, Clough was stunned to see Mrs Thatcher tapping the vacant space on the sofa beside her and saying: "Come Gordon, sit by me." And honouring him with a stiff



Clough: a big beautiful voice

whisky when the interview was over.

By the late 1980s the pathfinding *World At One* tradition had long become orthodox and this was probably enough for Clough to begin to tire of the presenter's chair. He started to grumble that too many programmes were chasing the same political story too hard and too long; the variety of life was being lost.

It was then that he made his providential self-discovery. Already a writer of some of the most eloquent – and the longest – sentences since Gibbon, he became a wonderful reporter in his mid-fifties.

His opportunity was the Gorbachev revolution. Unbanned, he returned to the crumbling Soviet Union to make four of the finest series of documentary journalism the BBC produced at the time, *Revolution Without Shoes* (1987), *The Indissoluble Union* (1989), *Death of a Superpower* (1991) and *Ashes of Empire* (1991); he also won two Sony awards. With his fluent Russian Clough caught history on the wing, capturing the

very essence of the break-up of the Soviet system as it happened, from the top of society to the bottom. The honours list of Soviet reformers around Gorbachev – Aganbegyan, Yavlitsky, Kagaritsky and Sobchak – was rolled out on to Radio 4, while Clough was the first westerner seen by many a Soviet peasant in the steppes from the Volga to the Aral Sea.

Clough also covered South Africa months after Mandela's release and for a season he presented *Europhile*, Radio 4's European affairs magazine. But although his audience didn't suspect it, his strength and stamina were flagging and the Indian summer of his reporting life ended in 1994.

But there remained *Round Britain Quiz*, Clough was a lower and custodian of the language and never was it in safer hands. He indulged it as chairman and compiler of the questions of the dourish radio panel game almost up to his death.

Gordon Clough would not have apologised for spending virtually his whole career in the BBC, which he loved beneath only the thinnest journalist's carapace. And it is with no less than love that his many friends in the BBC and his audiences will remember him.

After a divorce from his wife Carolyn in 1991, he remarried her and died at home. She, three daughters and a son survive him.

Brian Walker

Arthur Gordon Clough, radio journalist; born Salford, Lancashire 26 August 1934; married 1959 Carolyn Stafford (one son, three daughters); died London 6 April 1996.

Dr Stephen Pheasant

Stephen Pheasant was an internationally-renowned ergonomist, a gifted and best-selling academic author and an accomplished jazz musician.

Pheasant was raised in Islington, London before going up to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, to read Medical Science in 1968. His contemporaries there will perhaps remember him best for his passion for free jazz and his role in taking the musically-based shows *Stoney Ground* and *Make Me Make You* to the Edinburgh Fringe in consecutive years. His earlier experience with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and the inspiration of his hero Charlie Parker no doubt influenced him to form, subsequently, the Steve Pheasant Quintet which played every Friday at the White Hart Inn, Drury Lane, in central London, from the mid 1970s to the early 1980s.

Students of his at the Royal Free Hospital and University College London, where he lectured for many years in Anatomy, Biomechanics and Ergonomics, the scientific study of people and work, could rarely have encountered a more enthusiastic and committed teacher. His ability to conceptualise and then project complex biomechanical functions in a suitable mode for student learning were testimony to his instinct for education and scholarship.

He followed with keen interest the progress of the ergonomists he helped train and was always free to discuss research issues. His academic and textbook publications were recognised for their application and clarity, a talent acknowledged through the 1974 award,

sponsored by the *New Scientist* magazine, for writing about science in plain English.

Such skills were inevitably sought by other academic institutions and learned societies; thus he was always high on the invited speaker lists of conference organisers, both in Britain and abroad. Professional societies, including the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal College of Nursing, recognised his abilities, as did the British School of Osteopathy, where he held an honorary chair.

His written output was prolific and his textbooks, including *Bodyspace* (1986) and *Ergonomics: Work and Health* (1990) have become standards on reading lists around the world. His research output was recognised by the Ergonomics Society with the award of the Sir Frederic Bartlett Medal in 1982, jointly with his close colleague Professor Donald Grievie. His published data on human dimensions have been cited in more ergonomic designs than perhaps any other, and we are thus grateful too for his contribution to improved design of equipment, tools and many other artefacts of work and leisure use. Office furniture, production lines, drivers' consoles and public seating areas are just some of the locations which are more user-friendly because of his endeavours.

When Pheasant moved from the academic world, he chose to enter the field of personal injury litigation, in particular specialising in work-related musculoskeletal damage, including back pain and so-called "RSI" or repetitive strain injury. As an expert witness, most frequently acting on behalf of the injured party, he was perhaps at his most fulfilled. His desire to challenge orthodoxy, his intellectual skills, his ability to communicate, his love of fierce debate, and his instinct for "telling a good story" were all given full rein in such an arena. I have rarely seen him happier than when we developed litigious arguments or exchanged courtroom anecdotes with the help of a good Bordeaux. I am sure that adversaries and colleagues alike will sorely miss his presence and his skills.

Stephen Pheasant will be remembered by a large and diverse group of friends, colleagues, students, courtroom colleagues and musicians. This alone is testimony to a man whose undoubted intellectual, creative and communicative skills were matched only by his verve and energy in a wealth of areas.

Peter Buckle

Stephen Pheasant, ergonomist; born London 30 March 1949; died Nice, France 30 March 1996.



Pheasant: 'telling a good story'

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

LIDDELL: On 3 April 1996, to Chloe (nee Bertin) and David, a son, Rupert Henry, a brother for Freya.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent to writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 0171-233 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-233 2012) or faxed to 0171-233 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 39; M Jean-Paul Belmondo, actor, 63; Sir Simon Brown, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 59; Mr Eric Clarke MP, 65; Sir Brian Cribben, former senior civil servant, 68; Mr Iain Duncan-Smith MP, 42; The Most Rev Domenico Errici, former Apostolic Nuncio, 87; Lord Pitt, former Belfast MP, 70; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 55; Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalympole, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 70; Mr Roger Harrison, deputy chairman, Capital Radio and chairman, Toys-R-Hus, 63; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal, Strathclyde University, 70; Mr Peter Hinchcliffe, ambassador to Jordan, 58; Mr Eric Hiley MP, 41; Mr Tom Jackson, former trade union leader, 71; Mr Bernard Jenkin MP,

37; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 50; Mr Tom Lehrer, songwriter and lecturer, 68; Mr Peter Moore, former chairman, Littlewoods, 64; The Right Rev Gerald Moverley, Roman Catholic Bishop of Hallam, 74; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 79; Sir Michael Ogden QC, 70; Sir Michael Pullier, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 74; Mr Carl Perkins, rock singer and guitarist, 64; Sir Michael Richardson, Vice-Chairman, J.O. Hambro Magan & Co, 71; Mr Martin Rogers, director, Farmington Institute for Christian Studies, 65; Professor Richard Rose, Professor of Public Policy, Strathclyde University, 63; Mr Tony Sibson, mid-dleweight boxer, 38; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 59; Sir Michael Somare, first prime minister of Papua

New Guinea, 60; Mr Glenn F. Tilson, chairman, Texaco, 48; Professor David Walker QC, Emeritus Professor of Law, Glasgow University, 76; Sir Richard Young, former chairman, Boosey and Hawkes, 82.

Anniversaries

Births: James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, 1649; Theobald Böhm, clarinetist and composer, 1794; Giuseppina Pasta (Negri), soprano, 1798; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer, 1806; Charles-Pierre Baudelaire, poet, 1821; Leopold II, King of the Belgians, 1835; Sir Francesco Paolo Tosti, composer, 1847; Sir Charles Hubert, painter and etcher, 1861; Erich Friedrich Wilhelm von Luedendorff, general and politician,

1865; Charles Proteus Steinmetz, electrical engineer, 1865; Léon Blum, statesman, 1872; Sir Gerald Festus Kelly, artist, 1879; Errem Zimbalist, violinist, 1889; Paul Bustill Robeson, actor and singer, 1898; Ward Bond, actor, 1903; Hugh Todd Naylor Galskell, statesman, 1906; Victor Vasarely, Op Art painter, 1908; Sir Robert Murray Helpmann, dancer, 1909. Deaths: Edward IV, King of England, 1483; Lorenzo de' Medici ("The Magnificent"), statesman, 1492; François Rabelais, author, 1553; Francis Bacon, Viscount St Albans, statesman, 1626; Simon Fraser, 12th Baron Lovat, Jacobite, last man to be beheaded in England 1747; Jacques Necker, financier and statesman, 1804; John Oyle, infant prodigy, painter and illustrator, 1807;

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, poet and Pre-Raphaelite painter, 1828; Isabella II, Queen of Spain, 1904; Chang and Eng, conjoined twins, 1811; Edward Thomas, poet, killed in action, 1917; Mrs Patrick Campbell (Beatrice Stella Turner), actress, 1940; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, executed 1945; Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, 1959; Sir Basil Henry Blackwell, bookseller and publisher, 1984. On this day: the Mongol armies defeated the Poles and Germans at the Battle of Liegnitz (Wahlsatt), 1241; Botany Bay, Australia, was discovered by Captain James Cook, 1770; the National Gallery, London, was opened, 1838; General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, ending the American Civil War, 1865; the Hudson Bay

Company agreed to cede its territorial rights to Canada, 1869; the world's first full-length colour film, *The World, the Flesh and the Devil*, a British production, was shown at the Holborn Empire, London, 1914; Latvia proclaimed her independence, 1918; Germany invaded Norway and Denmark, 1940; the USS Liberty exploded in Bari harbour, Italy, killing 360 people, 1945; the Suez Canal was cleared for all shipping, 1957; today is the Feast Day of St Cauchianus, St Hugh of Rouen, St Mary Cleophas, St Urmarr and St Waldetrudis or Waudrud.

Lectures

British Museum: Delia Pemberton, "Medinet Habu", 1.15pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Edward, Patron, Huddersley Arts Trust, attends the first night of the Huddersley Choral and Opera Society's 50th anniversary production of *Orpheus at Huddersley Hall*, Abercrombie.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment

attends the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards

change the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

Wills
Mr Simon Dyer of Kew, Surrey, Di-

rector-General of the AA since 1987, left estate valued at £579,846 net.

Mr Elias Frias, the art lecturer of Bath, left estate valued at £223 net.

0171 233 2012

My father, my son

When the BBC journalist Fergal Keane became a father, he wrote a letter to his new son. His relationship with his own father had been deeply troubled. Here we publish his letter to Daniel Patrick and another to his dead father



Dear father

Dublin, New Year's Day 1972
Behind the bedroom door you are sleeping. I can hear your snoring rattling down the stairs to our ruined sitting room. Here among the broken chairs, the overturned Christmas tree, we are preparing to leave you. We are breaking away from you, Da.

Last night you crashed through the silence, dead drunk and spinning in your own wild orbit into another year of dreams. This would be the year of the big break – of Hollywood, you said. Oh my actor father, time was, time was, we swallowed those lines – but no longer.

Before leaving I look into the bedroom to where your hand droops out from under the covers, below it the small empty Powers' bottle, and I say goodbye.

And at seven o'clock on New Year's Day we push the old Ford Anglia down the driveway – my mother, brother and I. We push because the engine might wake you, and none of us can face a farewell scene. I don't know what the neighbours think, if anything, when they see a woman and two small boys stealing away in the grey morning, but I don't care, we're heading south with everything we own.

The day I turned 12, which was four days later, you called to say Happy Birthday. You were, as I remember, half-way sober, but you didn't say much else, except to ask for my mother, who would not come to the phone.

In the background I could hear glasses clinking, voices raised, and you said: "Tell her I love her," and then the change ran out, and I began to understand what made love the saddest word in any language.

Christmas that year and you had access to the children. We met in Cork station. I remember your new suit, your embarrassed embrace, the

money you pressed into our hands, and the smell of whisky. We found a taxi and the driver stared at us, throwing his eyes to heaven and shaking his head.

What I see now are many such faces; the waitress at the Old Bridge Café where drinks were spilled; the couple who asked for an autograph and watched your shaking hand struggle to write, before they beat a mortified retreat.

And on through pubs and bookie shops to one last café where Elvis was crooning, "Love Me Tender, Love Me Sweet," on an ancient radio, by now, nobody able to speak.

There was a taxi ride home, we children in the back, you in the front, and what lives with me still, always, is the moment of leave taking, Christmas 1972. Because as the car drove you away from our lives I saw through the steamed-up windows that your eyes had become waterfalls.

I was too young to understand what you knew – we were lost to you, broken away. Down the years we struggled to find one another, but I was growing up and away, and you were drifting closer to darkness. And at the end I gave up writing, gave up calling, I gave up.

Until one night my cousin called to say you were gone. It was a few days after Christmas, and your heart simply gave up in a small room in the town in north Kerry where you were born. I remember that you sent me the collected stories of Raymond Carver for Christmas. I had sent you nothing, not even a card. Now I would send you a thousand but I have no address.

Fergal

This message will be broadcast tonight at 11.30pm on Radio 4

My dear son

Hong Kong
It is six o'clock in the morning. You are asleep, cradled in my left arm, and I am learning the art of one-handed typing. Your mother, more tired, yet more happy than I've ever known her, is sound asleep in the room next door. Since you've arrived, days have melted into night and back again.

When you're older we'll tell you that you were born in Britain's last Asian colony in the lunar year of the pig and that when we brought you home, the staff of our apartment block gathered to wish you well. Your mother and I have wanted you and waited for you, imagined you and dreamed about you, and now that you are here, no dream can do justice to you.

We have called you Daniel Patrick. Your coming has turned me upside down and inside out. So much that seemed essential to me has, in the past few days, taken on a different colour. Like many foreign correspondents I know I have lived a life that on occasion has veered close to the edge: war zones, natural disasters, darkness in all its shapes and forms.

In a world of insecurity and ambition and ego it's easy to be drawn in, to take chances with our lives, to believe that what we do and what people say about it is reason enough to gamble with death. Now, looking at your sleeping face, inches away from me, listening to your occasional sigh and gurgle, I wonder how I could have ever thought glory and prizes and praise were sweeter than life.

And it's also true that I am pained, perhaps haunted by a better word, by the memory, suddenly so vivid now, of each suffering child I have come across on my journeys. Looking at you, the images come flooding back. Ten-year-old Ani Mikail dying from napalm

burns on a hillside in Eritrea, how his voice cried out, growing ever more faint when the wind blew dust onto his wounds.

The two brothers, Domingo and Juste in Menongue, southern Angola. Juste, three years old and blind, dying from malnutrition, being carried on 10-year-old Domingo's back. And Domingo's words to me: "He was nice before, but now he has the hunger."

There is one last memory, of Rwanda, and the churchyard of the parish of Nyarabuye.

Looking at your sleeping face, I wonder how I could ever have thought glory was sweeter than life

where, in a ransacked classroom, I found a mother and her three young children huddled together where they had been beaten to death. The children had died holding onto their mother, that instinct we all learn from birth and in one way or another cling to until we die.

Daniel, these memories explain some of the fierce protectiveness I feel for you, the occasional moments of blind terror when I imagine anything happening to you. But there is something more, a story from long ago that I will tell you face to face, father to son, when you are older.

It begins 35 years ago in a big city on a January morning with snow on the ground and a woman walking to hospital to have her first baby. She is in her early twenties and the city is

still strange to her, bigger and noisier than the easy streets and gentle hills of her distant home. She's walking because there is no money and everything of value has been pawned to pay for the alcohol to which her husband has become addicted.

On the way a taxi driver notices her sitting exhausted and cold in the doorway of a shop and he takes her to hospital for free. Later that day she gives birth to a baby boy and just as you are to me, he is the best thing she has ever seen. Her husband comes that night and weeps with joy when he sees his son. He is truly happy. Hungover, broke, but in his own way happy, for they were both young and in love with each other, and their son.

But the cancer of alcoholism ate away at the man and he lost his family. This was not something he meant to do or wanted to happen, it just was. By the time his son had grown up, the man lived away from his family, on his own in a one-roomed flat, living and dying for the bottle. His son was too far away to hear his last words, his final breath, and all the things they might have wished to say to one another were left unspoken.

Yet, Daniel, when you let out your first powerful cry in the delivery room and I became a father, I thought of your grandfather, and foolish though it may seem, hoped that in some way he could hear, across the infinity between the living and the dead, your proud statement of arrival. For if he could hear, he would recognise the distinct voice of the family, the sound of hope and new beginnings that you and all your innocence and freshness have brought to the world.

Fergal

DIARY

Have they got an ordeal for him?

I was surprised to see David Ashby, Tory MP for North West Leicestershire, among the guest celebs in the next series of *Have I Got News For You*. Since losing his libel case against the *Sunday Times*, in which he was branded a homosexual, a hypocrite and a liar, he lost his temper on *Kilroy* during a discussion about press intrusion and misrepresentation.

Has he ever actually watched *Have I Got News For You*? As Paula Yates or Roy Hattersley will inform him, it has a penchant for targeting the weak spots of its guests. And, as a central allegation made in the *Sunday Times* was that he shared a bed with a male friend in France, the thoughts of the show's producer, Colin Swash, show he will need a sense of humour. "We are very hopeful that he will appear," says Mr Swash. "If he does he will be sharing his desk with another man."

However, Mr Ashby's faith in human nature seems undaunted. "The programme's not a political programme, is it?" he asked me. "It's a bit of laugh isn't it? I'm looking forward to an enjoyable occasion."

So are we.

Traitor's secrets betrayed at last

This summer the Government will release secret papers relating to the original Lord Haw-Haw, Norman Bailey-Stewart, who actually preceded the better-known traitor William Joyce in the *Germany Calling* radio broadcasts during the Second World War, died in June 1956. And the Home Office is

now prepared to make public information about him. It should make a riveting read. The former lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders was twice accused of betraying his country – once for selling secrets to the Germans for £90 in 1933 (he claimed a 22-year-old blonde German woman gave him the money in return for his making love to her in a Berlin park.) He was sent to the Tower of London, where the handsome officer took exercise in front of scores of women who had queued to see him parade in full Highland dress escorted by an armed Coldstream Guards officer.

The second trial was shortly after the war – he was charged with aiding the enemy and sentenced to five years. Compared with Joyce he seems to have got off lightly and ended up a successful businessman in Ireland, designing a ship for the Harland and Wolff yard. On the other hand, he may have felt a little hard done by at his first court martial, where he was described as a "pathological case with a fixation for German women" – not known to be a crime in peace time.

Scots lean a little to the left

A conference in Glasgow tomorrow will be told that the Scots and the English share common values. One of the few differences that emerges in a British Rights Survey is that the Scots are 8 per cent more likely to identify

themselves as being on the political left. Otherwise, says Professor Bill Miller of Glasgow University, the differences are "small but interesting". That will bring joy to the heart of Labour's Robin Cook, who is on the left of the party and Scottish and small and interesting.

Milking the situation

A reader telephones to tell me to stop referring to mad cows. They are quadrupeds with churning difficulties. I shall endeavour to remember that.

Mr Darcy unloved? Surely not

Appear in *Pride and Prejudice* and die. This was the improbable claim last week from the actor Colin Firth, of virile breeches fame. Journalists at an awards ceremony heard him wail: "I have worked solidly for 12 years, but after *Pride and Prejudice*, it just went quiet." Could this really be so? Well, actually, no. A quick check confirms that, since playing Mr Darcy, Firth went straight on to do a BBC adaptation of Conrad's novel, *Nostromo*, in South America, then a film in Rome and assorted other projects.

"He must," reassures a BBC spokesman, "just have been feeling a little modest, that's all." Of course, cynics among us might suggest he was catching a quick headline for his new lead role in Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch*. And there was I, thinking it a truth universally acknowledged that a man in possession of A-list sex symbol status was not in need of publicity stunts.

Eagle Eye



Brain food for hungry politicians

The cynical side of the mind of the chairman of the London Zoo Board, Lord Hattersley, is sending pictures of the zoo's animals to the *Times*, *Guardian* and *Telegraph*, pausing only to throw a bone to the *Independent*. But the zoo board chairman and his colleagues are sure that this is not the case. The 12-week-old *Independent*, it is fiercely loyal to this newspaper, after all.

The director of the zoo, Dr. M. C. P. Smith, says: "Our latest conservation success needed some publicity, so we got it put into."

CELLNET INTRODUCE FRESHLY SQUEEZED ORANGE.

15

minutes maximum for
£17.63 on talk 15*

orange

32

MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR
£17.50 ON OCCASIONAL CALLER*

CELLNET

RING 0800 21 4000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.



*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs. 32 mins max of off-peak calls. Hourage reduces when peak-time calls are made. Telcelco Secretariat Cellular Pacific

THE INDEPENDENT

FOUNDED 1986

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2436

EDITOR: Charles Wilson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes
SECTION TWO EDITOR: Simon Kelner EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams
NIGHT EDITOR: Richard HallidayNEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC, BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Liam Neill (Chairman), Lord Birt, Ben Bradlee, Juan Luis Ceballos, Brendan Hopkins,
David Montgomery, Javier Díez de Palencia, Cornel Riklin, Andreas Whitlam Smith
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Jeremy Bead

Taxing times for Labour

A generation ago under Harold Wilson, devaluation was the great unmentionable for Labour. For Tony Blair, compulsory mouth-washing is ordered for anyone who mentions the "T" word, taxes. John Smith, so party lore has it, lost the 1992 election for Labour by promising increases in income tax and National Insurance. This time round the fiscal silence has been deafening. You have to listen very hard to hear any Labour tax talk. What is audible is moderate in the extreme. Most of the tax-paying population will sleep easy if Blair is voted into Number 10.

It seems, therefore, strange that KPMG should be telling its clients hair-raising tales of Tony's terrible tax take and telling them to decamp, or dispatch their funds, to foreign climes. KPMG is a reputable firm of accountants and consultants. It has prospered under the Tories and probably would do so under Labour. Either KPMG has had sight of deeply socialist schemes unknown to the rest of us or it is engaging in scare tactics that leave it looking like Conservative Central Office's errand boy. This is an odd position for a company that recently published a damning calculation of the tax burden under the Tories.

Anyone with assets or the prospect of a future income stream should plan. Planning includes anticipating taxes and may require shifting money between portfolios.

But telling clients to plan for dramatic tax scenarios that bear no relation to Labour's stated policies is bad advice.

Gordon Brown has hung the credibility of a Blair government on spending restraint. The lack of spending commitments around the Shadow Cabinet makes several cherished Labour policies look distinctly threadbare. Under the guise of tax reform, certain rates would probably rise. There could be a new top rate of 50 per cent. Inheritance tax would probably weigh heavier. Labour's proposed windfall tax on the privatised utilities would hurt shareholders. But this is not revolution. Do such plans justify KPMG's exaggerated advice to taxpayers? No, Labour is now squarely in the fiscal mainstream.

KPMG's advice runs the risk of partisanship; it is also painfully limited. Where is the mention of what Labour's policies might do for business and investment, to stock market values, to the real economic context within which income is earned and savings fructify? It might be too much to expect that tax advisers should be telling their clients that, whoever wins the next election, vexing questions about skills and jobs and social division will have to be addressed. But surely even KPMG is obliged to remind its clients that there are such principles as fairness and proportionality. Their application does not justify a headlong flight by higher-rate taxpayers.

Diplomatic salvo

In the Korean peninsula order takes the form of armed truce. History dictates that the Stalinist period piece in the North must fall or transmute into something more like a modern pluralist state. But Pyongyang thwarts history. The regime, part oriental despotism, part totalitarian bureaucracy, obeys its own logic. The country is sliding further from the path of development. Floods have left it hungry and debilitated. The response ought to be a softening of its hard diplomatic lines. Yet this week could be one of the tensest in a decade. Soldiers from the North have repeatedly entered the Demilitarised Zone, violating the Armistice which ended the Korean War.

Washington has kept cool. The North cannot mobilise artillery without being observed. Allied forces have at least a day's warning of war. But does the North want armed conflict? There may be a diplomatic rationale – unless it is some half-baked attempt to emulate recent Chi-

nese pressure on Taiwan, for there are national assembly elections in South Korea this week and, as in Taiwan, relations with the Communists are an issue. These military demonstrations may be the diplomatic gesturing of a regime that cannot talk in conventional language. Destroying the armistice may be a scorched-earth policy. If there is no armistice, there has to be a permanent agreement.

What the North Koreans want is the wherewithal to keep the country going, having made minimum political concessions. They seem to want a bilateral treaty with the US that would permit trade and aid to flow to the North. The US has abiding obligations to the South but must also think about north-east Asian security. Dealing with North Korea is like treating a cunning psychopath. But sometimes even psychopaths are worth talking to, provided straitjackets are in place, the windows barred and the guards armed.

Thin excuses for GPs

The wide freedom British doctors have to prescribe medicines is founded on a rigorous procedure for assessing their safety before launch. Where the system is less robust is in follow-up. Who prescribes, when, and how attentively to the general state of the patient? In theory doctors are policed not only by the General Medical Council but by informal peer pressures and exchange of views in periodicals. But with so-called slimming pills the system seems to have broken down. Women have died and alarm bells should have been ringing long and loud.

These drugs have a role, though not uncontroversial, in treating obesity. The immediate question is their misuse. There is evidence that doctors are prescribing them, as with amphetamines and sleeping pills, as "get the patient off my back" drugs. Some doctors seem to have an attitude that is little better than quackery.

Culture prefers certain body shapes. Fat gets a consistently bad press. Many, many women want to be thinner. Some of them allow their weight to become a source of anxiety. Much of the £1bn-a-year slimming industry does no harm, though it probably does little good either. But there is a segment of the market that is irresponsible and has to be curbed.

The Department of Health has had slimming pills under review for some time, but seems to have been dilatory about doing anything. It now has to hand an expert report, which must not be ignored. One option is licensing slimming clinics. But the medical profession needs to act quickest. Exemplary disciplinary action against doctors who have mis-prescribed these drugs would remind all GPs that no drug should be given to a patient without energetic parallel efforts to track side effects and outcomes.

The not necessarily the news quiz

How well do you think you keep up with the news? Think you're as much in touch with the headlines as Trevor McDonald? Then see how well you do with this test! All you have to do is read the following recent news stories and say which ones are false and which are true.

1. At the weekend, some members of the Royal Family made a bid for freedom after breaking out of Windsor Castle but were swiftly rounded up by a trained pack of polo ponies stationed nearby.

2. The world's first libel case has arisen from use of the Internet. A registered Internet user in Britain fed in some highly damaging information about Rupert Murdoch's organisation News International and he is being sued for libel by Murdoch in America. The defence that the libel, if any, took place in Britain is being discounted by Murdoch's lawyers, who say that a writ for libel can be issued anywhere that the libel was uttered and that means, in the case of the Internet, anywhere. The case will create a new precedent in international law.

3. The Tory party has tried, and failed, to insure itself against losing the next general election. No reputable insurance company will take the business. Only Lloyds has shown



MILES KINGSTON

an interest, and has asked for certain conditions which even the Tory party has felt unable to agree to.

4. The oldest living war criminal has been found. Ernst Jungfer, who is 102 years old and living quietly in Munich, has been identified as the very same Ernst Jungfer who has been sought for atrocities committed in the last year of the 1914-1918 war, when he was 24 years old. He is the only known war criminal still wanted from the Great War. Although he may not have committed any atrocities himself, he is, as the oldest survivor, now responsible for anything done by anyone on the German side. A trial may be difficult, as there are no surviving witnesses, and Jungfer himself cannot remember anything about the First World War at all, or indeed anything about the Second World War, though he can remember every sin-

gle episode of Dallas, which is not in itself a crime.

5. A stable of polo ponies stationed at Windsor stampeded over the weekend, following a visit by the Duchess of York in her new, stark, white-faced image. "The ponies knew her well in her old guise," said a palace spokesman, "but they seem to have freaked out when they saw this thing coming towards them. All is well now, as Fergie is back under lock and key and is being calmed down."

6. The new mystery majority shareholder in the Internet has now been identified as Rupert Murdoch. He is quoted as saying that he didn't realise till his recent Internet libel case just how powerful this new medium was, and he intends to take it over before he gets too tired-looking and haggard. He intends to issue two electronic newspapers on the Net, called the Daily E-Mail and E-Mail on Sunday.

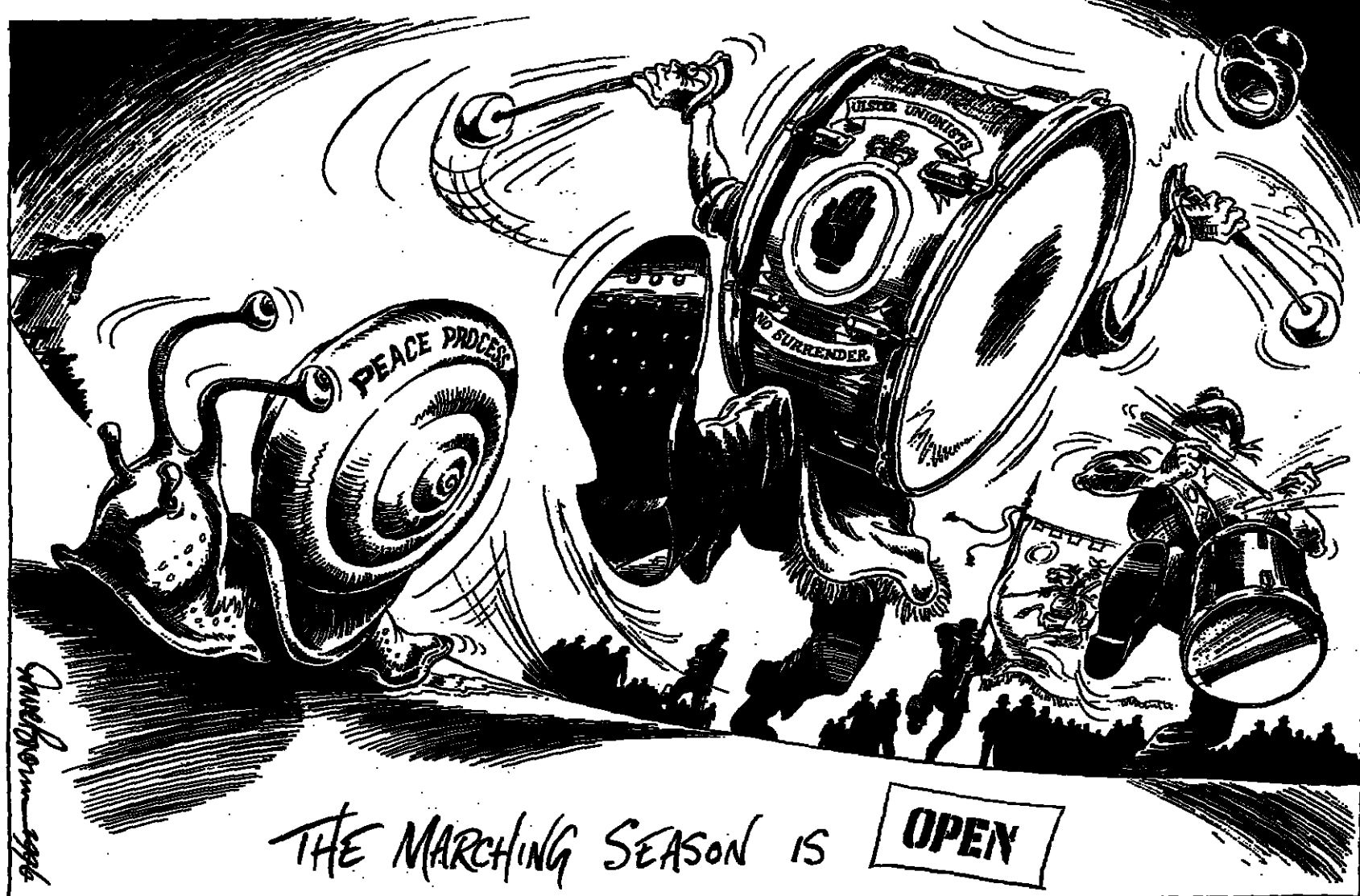
7. A new one-day cricketing record has been created by Sri Lanka, when their opening batsman, Jariyasa, hit a century off the first ball – and was out as well. Under the bright stadium lights, the ball went missing under the umpire's feet and the opening pair ran 107 runs before it was found. But while he was trying to

complete the 108th run, he was run out.

8. The Government's strategy for the general election is, it is being confidently reported, to make a huge amount of money for the Tory party by placing large amounts with the bookmakers on a Labour victory. "I don't see how we can fail," says a spokesman from under a large brown paper bag. "All we have to do is introduce large tax increases at the last moment and Bob's your uncle."

9. Damian Hurst, the controversial artist, has been accused of going commercial after his latest work, entitled "A String of Polo Ponies Pursued by the Royal Family, at Night". To create it, he had to set 60 or 70 polo ponies free at night and get the Royal Family out after them, in their night wear and gum boots. "Which took a lot of organising. I can tell you," says his agent. But art critics say that this newest work is going right down market, and they point to the rave coverage it got in the Sun.

The answer is that, yes, it is true that Trevor McDonald is related to the founder of McDonald's and will not read out any news item criticising the hamburger chain. All the rest are false.



THE MARCHING SEASON IS OPEN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Africa fights on to save elephants from poachers

Sir: It is now seven years since the 1989 ban on the ivory trade but according to Richard Lloyd Parry's article ("Japan adds its voice to scrapping ivory ban", 2 April), the remaining stocks will last for the next five or six years. This suggests that there was stockpiling and perhaps an unnecessary slaughter of additional elephants.

In the past, ivory from poached elephants has found its way into the market and even now there is really no mechanism in the supplying or receiving countries to deal with the problem.

It is true that the ban has not altogether stopped poaching and the illegal trade, but lifting it will only fuel them. The ban on sight of any ivory transaction creates no

doubt in anybody's mind that it is illegal. Without it poachers and their friends can cover their tracks.

The attempt to lift the ban would have been a little more convincing if Africa's elephant population were rising rapidly rather than the present situation of low but stable numbers.

Maintain the ban and save the elephant for posterity.

MWANYENGELA NGALI
High Commissioner
Kenya High Commission
London W1

Sir: In your article "Japan adds its voice to scrapping ivory ban" (2 April), there were a number of misleading points.

Only four countries in Africa

oppose the ivory ban. Around 30 countries are in favour of it and, in fact, more have become so since its positive effects began to be felt. To say that Japan "adds its voice" is to imply a growing chorus of dissent, which is far from the truth. Zimbabwe and Namibia have now lost another ally: South Africa has just announced that it will not be applying to have its elephants removed from the protected list, while Zambia left them behind in 1992.

You state that "African officials believe that the ban encourages poaching". Surveys undertaken in the past three years show huge support among African officials for the ivory ban, and clear evi-

dence that it has reduced poaching almost everywhere and stopped it altogether in some areas. The grossly outnumbered anti-ban Zimbabwean officials are trying to persuade the world that the ban has not worked.

Your article does, however, make one thing abundantly clear. Official Japanese consumption of ivory prior to the ban stood at around 100 tonnes per year. Now craftsmen are saying that only 160 tonnes remain, which will last another five or six years. Consumption has dropped enormously since the ban.

SUSIE WATTS
Environmental Investigation
Agency
London EC1

Feeble curb on advertisers

Sir: With reference to your article, "Offensive posters send complaint levels soaring" (3 April), I am afraid the hundreds of people, myself included, who complain about advertisements are unaware that they are well-meaning but naive participants in an elaborate game arranged by the advertisers themselves.

The Advertising Standards Authority was set up by the advertising world to forestall government involvement, with the possibility of stringent legislation and penalties. Its existence leads the public to believe that something is "being done" about offensive advertisements but it is designed to be weak enough to make sure that the cheeky chappy school of advertising can ply its trade with impunity. The ASA puts the whole burden of "regulation" on to the few members of the public who take the trouble to write and lumber into action only after advertisements are already causing offence in the public domain. The ASA acts as a focus for the furore generated by advertisers like Benetton and this leads to a magnificent bonus of extra free publicity.

L K SWIFT
Bolton, Greater Manchester

Newbury: wrong battleground for anti-road lobby

Sir: Your leading article "Road protesters lose their direction" (5 April) is right to be concerned that the anti-road lobby "is in danger of becoming a marginalised minority pursuit".

Although a strong supporter of the Newbury bypass, I nevertheless share that concern. The urgent need for a bypass to reduce the pollution caused by Newbury's notorious traffic problems should not be allowed to obscure the equally important need to review the roads programme in general.

By concentrating their fire on one of the few roads where the environmental benefits will outweigh the environmental dam-

age, the protesters have reduced the credibility of the anti-road lobby.

Their failure, noted by your leader, to attract anywhere near the numbers of protesters the organisers had originally promised is one result of this loss of credibility. It will be a matter of great regret, to me as much as to anyone else, if the protest continues and in so doing marginalises those of us who understand the pressing need for a new integrated transport strategy for our country.

DAVID RENDEL MP
(Newbury, Lib Dem)
House of Commons
London SW1

Call of nature

Sir: I was dismayed to read Ross Mackie's remark (report, 8 April) that travellers on Great Western Railway may or even should use their mobile telephones in the quiet seclusion of the lavatories – a shocking waste of expensive and much-needed facilities. GWR having planted this insidious idea in the minds of mobile phone enthusiasts should forthwith install efficient urinating devices.

Professor NICHOLAS KURTI
Oxford

'Bottom-up' legal settlements

Sir: Grania Langdon-Down's article on structured settlements (3 April) was very timely, given that this method of paying damages in a personal injury claim was given a major fillip by the Finance Act, 1995. This enabled the annuity payments to be made directly from the life insurer to the plaintiff, rather than through the defendant insurer, effecting considerable savings in administrative costs and tax for the insurer. Further useful changes are on the way in the Damages Bill, which will shortly begin its passage through Parliament.

However, the article was somewhat misleading in suggesting that arranging a structured settlement from the bottom up, rather than the top down, is new. Both approaches have been adopted by solicitors and insurers for some time and it is arguable whether they are radically different. Generally, those advising the plaintiff will need to consider the potential size of any lump sum the plaintiff may receive, in order to be able to evaluate the advantages of resolving the claim by a lump sum, or in whole, or in part, by a structured settlement. While the bottom-up needs-based approach certainly has advantages in cases where liability is disputed, or there is an element of contributory negligence, or where life expectancy is reduced, the plaintiff certainly needs robust and independent advice on whether the annuity package on offer from the insurer is in his or her best interests.

SUZANNE BURN
Secretary, Civil Litigation
Committee
The Law Society
London WC2

Breathing in the BSE molecules

Sir: Dr J S Knowland's suggestion (letter, 29 March) that non-oral routes could be responsible for the transmission of BSE and other prion-based diseases appears very reasonable.

It is generally assumed that in prion diseases harmless naturally occurring protein molecules are being transformed into harmful molecules with a different configuration. It is supposed that molecules already transformed tend to act as seeds on which harmless molecules are deposited and rendered into pathogenic ones.

Airborne particles with pathogenic prion molecules at their surface when presented to endings of olfactory nerves could initiate a degenerative process which propagates along the nerve and eventually reaches the brain. The precise nature of such a process can only be understood when more is known about the function and location of natural prion protein in the nervous system.

Dr J LUCASSEN
Oegstgeest, The Netherlands

Sir: Godfrey Meynell (letter, 8 April) dwells on the virtues of organic farming. But if there is or has been a BSE risk arising from cattle, there must also be a BSE risk from eating "organic" vegetables which have been fertilised with bonemeal and ox-blood, rather than chemical fertilisers. Or can the organic lobby give a categorical and scientific assurance that no one has been put at risk by eating organic food?

MARTIN WEALE
London N1

Easter myths of Passover

Sir: Keith Botsford's gargantuan buffet of history, myth, tradition, eggs, lambs and other Easter fare ("Time to savour the feast of spring", 5 April) included a few rather indigestible morsels.

"As the Father sacrificed his son, the son became the pure, innocent Lamb of God," proclaims Botsford. "which accounts for the prime place given to lamb on Easter Day."

Well, yes and no. The "prime place given to lamb" at Easter is none other than the place it occupied for Jesus and the disciples when they celebrated Passover. In those days, at Passover each household made the journey to the Temple in Jerusalem, sacrificed a lamb, roasted it and ate it. Since the destruction of the Temple, the Passover lamb is remembered simply as a bone on the Seder plate, to which Botsford makes the fleeting and inaccurate reference. The plate, adorned with the bone and five other symbols of Temple times, takes pride of place on the festive dinner table in Jewish homes on "Seder night", the start of the Passover.

The symbolic egg of Easter, which has become chocolate in modern times, was another Passover sacrifice. A burnt egg lies beside the bone on the Seder plate, and the festive Seder meal – widely assumed to have been the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples – starts with an egg in salt water. Throughout Passover, incidentally, owing to the lack of bread or leaven, egg dishes are immensely popular.

Keith Botsford mistakenly mentions a "plaited loaf made with egg at Seder, the beginning of Passover." Absolutely not. Passover happens to be the only time of year when *halлах* – the plaited loaf made with egg – is not eaten: for this is the Festival of Matzah, unleavened bread.

Ignorance about Jews led to the routine Passion Week accusation that Jews use Christian blood for their Passover meal. These accusations made Easter the most dangerous time of year for Jews throughout the Christian world. The word "Easter" still fills many Jews with fear.

ANDREW SANGER
London NW2

HIV test panic

Sir: On the day the BSE scare broke I had an urgent fax from the Chief Medical Officer, delivered late at night by taxi. A further fax followed a few days later. The news breaks today (5 April) that 20,000 HIV tests may be flawed. That's 20,000 worried people. Add their partners: 40,000 minimum. Nothing from the Department of Health, whose phone line is continually engaged. My local hospital knows nothing. The genito-urinary clinic is shut for the Easter weekend, as is the local public health laboratory. This is a real mess. We've been here before, with the contraceptive pill scare. Where's my fax, Dr Calman?

Dr PETER MCCOLL
Sheffield

Tasty turkey eggs

Sir: If Peter Stokoe (letter, 6 April) had eaten eggs from free-range turkeys, fed on natural feeds, as ours were for many years, he would not have dismissed them as tasteless. They are delicate and full of flavour.

KATHIE THEAR
Saffron Walden, Essex

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Mad cow disease questions the basic principles of industrialised farming. As our agriculture stands condemned, five writers ask whether this is Britain's opportunity to lead the world and become the first major organic food producer

Can British farming go green?

Make British agriculture organic? The idea seems ludicrous. Imagine the grubby, worm-filled apples, the expensive meat, and the over-ripe tomatoes. Turning back the agricultural clock to set aside advances in fertility, pest control and intensive farming – it sounds like an economic disaster. Higher food prices, bankrupt farmers, rural job losses, an explosion in imports, and huge pointless subsidies from the taxpayer: all appear inevitable.

That's the conventional wisdom. But hang on a minute. There is, in fact, a considerable economic case for the restructuring of British agriculture along organic lines, in other words free of pesticides, chemicals and hormones, and involving humane animal husbandry. The markets, particularly after BSE, are emerging. Existing organic farms show that production can be viable. Our rivals in Europe are already ahead of us in spotting the opportunities. An overhaul of the official subsidy system could transform the cost basis of production.

For a start, British shoppers clearly want a certain amount of organic produce on the supermarket shelves. The Soil Association regis-

ters most of Britain's organic farms. According to its director, Patrick Holden, consumer demand is still growing. The power of the consumer protest against the risks of BSE shows just how strong the desire for healthy and safe food has become.

Yet British farmers have not been responding to domestic demand. Even before the BSE scare, they failed to provide the organic produce that consumers wanted. Around 70 per cent of organic produce in this country is imported, including vegetables such as carrots that we could easily grow at home. The result of this excess of demand over supply is that British organic food can often be sold at a premium, well above the cost of producing it.

Demand for organic food is even higher elsewhere in Europe. Britain could follow the Austrian example and aim deliberately for the top end of the huge European market. Given the current lack of confidence in Europe about British food, the future competitiveness of our agriculture may depend on a really radical attempt to redefine the "British" label as the safest and the greenest.

Expanding organic production to meet demand would generate fur-

ther benefits. At the moment only 0.3 per cent of British farmland is under organic cultivation. Packaging and distribution for a few scattered organic farms is still relatively expensive, because the costs of the organic labelling cannot be shared between many farms. Once the industry reached a critical mass, farmers and consumers could benefit from considerable savings, and the price of organic goods would fall.

Other countries are converting to a greener type of agriculture faster than Britain. Germany, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands and Italy already have more of their farmland under organic production. In Austria, a remarkable 11.5 per cent of agricultural land is organically farmed. Land under organic production is doubling every year in Austria. In Germany it is rising by more than 50 per cent and in Italy by 140 per cent a year. The rate in Britain is just 11 per cent.

A move towards more organic farming here would be economic, even under the current system of subsidies, according to Lawrence Woodward, the director of the Elm Farm Research Centre, which produces business plans for farmers

THE ECONOMICS



YVETTE COOPER

contemplating the organic conversion. Mixed farms which have both livestock and arable are, he says, best suited to organic production – particularly those which never entirely embraced the most intensive methods of modern industrial farming. Farmers are discouraged, however, by the novelty of organic farming and by uncertainty.

But the biggest obstacle to widespread organic farming in Britain is the structure of agricultural subsidies. Farming organically means using no artificial fertilisers. As a result, land needs to be left fallow, or filled with clover to rebuild the fertility of the soil. At any one time, an organic farmer is likely to have

around half of his land lying fallow – missing out on direct subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policy of £270 for every hectare under arable cultivation. The result is that the market is rigged against producing organic goods.

Other countries make an explicit attempt to compensate for the imbalance in CAP subsidies, drawing on the EU's AgriEnvironment budget to provide additional cash for organic farming. If the Government was serious about levelling the playing field, they could take a similar approach. A more radical strategy would be to renegotiate the CAP entirely and change the balance of subsidies across Europe.

It is easy enough to justify tipping the playing field in favour of organic production. Intensively produced food may be cheaper for the consumer in the shops, but there are costly side effects for society as a whole. Nitrates seeping in from fertilisers into the water supply need to be cleaned out by water companies – and push up water bills. The health risk from modern farming methods, feeding patterns and chemical use may go far beyond mad cow disease. Heavy taxation of agri-

cultural chemicals would be one way to encourage farmers to use less.

But before going overboard, it is worth recognising what can really be achieved, at least in the short run. No matter how great the health scares, British shoppers are not about to convert en masse to an entirely organic diet. And why should we? While most of us would rather the food on our plate was no longer coated with thick layers of chemicals, we are still happy to take advantage of prudent use of modern scientific methods.

Furthermore, organic vegetables are ugly. Smaller, grub-filled, irregular, these are not the beautiful round shiny red apples that shoppers are quick to pluck from the shelves. It will also be hard to wipe out the British appetite for cheap meat. Last week at the height of the BSE scare, one supermarket reported more beef sold than in any day in their entire history: halving the price of steak had far more impact on customers' decisions than any comments by health experts. Although the price of lamb and beef would not go up considerably under organic farming methods, cheap chicken and pork would almost disappear. It

is difficult to imagine British families cheerfully bidding farewell to the bacon butty or the grilled chicken drumstick.

The price of processed food that time-pressed families increasingly depend on would also soar. No more stopping at Tesco on the way home for a cheap Chicken Kiev or lasagne. Sticking within the household budget would still be perfectly easy on organic British food – but it would require a serious change in our diets and cooking habits.

Trying to capture the healthy end of the European market has disadvantages too. Britain lacks a comparative advantage in organic produce. It is less costly for smaller mixed farms on the continent to adapt than the massive arable farms of East Anglia.

Nevertheless, the case for expanding organic production in Britain is overwhelming. Consumers already want it, and demand is rising both here and abroad. An entirely organic nation is not yet on the cards. That will need a more dramatic change in consumer tastes. But it is time for the Government to think, as our competitors are, of creating a kinder fiscal regime for the organic farmer.

How Ambridge could join the revolution

GOING ORGANIC

Farmers as a breed are not given to deep introspection. They're the doers of our society rather than the thinkers, which is both their weakness and their strength. Saddle them with a system that in the eyes of most of the country has failed and they'll defend it to the bitter end.

The problem is that the average farmer has almost no conception of the earth's natural bounty. The land will deliver nothing without a good deal of coaxing from the products of Du Pont and AgriEvo. So to grow a decent cereal crop you need to start with a modern, high-yielding variety from the likes of Zeneca. Seed. Apply an autumn herbicide plus a couple of sizeable dressings of nitrogen fertiliser from Hydro Agri. Add a growth regulator or two for good measure, and nurture through the season with three or four fungicide sprays from Bayer. Finally, harvest with a 350hp, high-capacity combine from Claas.

It's not that the modern farmer employs such technical aids to enhance a natural process. In his eyes they are the process: as indispensable

as soil, rain and sunshine. If there remains somewhere an inherited memory of a time before agrochemicals, it's darkened by images of rural decay: of collapsed barns and gates hanging off hinges, of wheat fields choked up with weeds. Along came ICI to save the world from all that.

The reality was somewhat different. The author H.J. Massingham, an astute commentator on rural Britain in the 1930s and 40s, warned often that the industrialisation of agriculture would lead to disaster. In his book *The Wisdom of the Fields*, he writes of a wartime meeting with a couple who farmed a tiny smallholding.

On a little over four acres of steeply sloping land Mr Rowe and his wife grew enough food to feed a small hamlet, all without the aid of chemicals. Their crops included strawberries – 120 lb in 1944 – potatoes, orchard fruits, plus a greater diversity of vegetables than many a grower "with 400 acres of fat and level land". In addition they grew enough

grass, fodder crops and flowers to support a pony, 130 chickens including 30 pullets, goats, six ewes and a lamb, a breeding sow with a litter of eight and 30 hives of bees. Massingham comments that their crops were of "superlative quality" and their animals in perfect health.

Husbandry such as this would feed a hundred million people when the "crazy edifice of super-industrialism" came tumbling down, he wrote.

At the end of the war there were a quarter of a million small farmers like the Rowes, each with less than 50 acres. Virtually without subsidies they had survived the depression of the 20s and 30s. Without chemical aids they had fed the nation during time of war. They were by any reckoning a national treasure.

Unfortunately the politicians, who have never understood such things, decided there was no place for a peasant culture in postwar Britain. So they introduced the disastrous subsidy system that swelled dividends to shareholders in pesticide companies and forced the true cus-

tomers of the land out of business.

And here we are with an agriculture that costs us billions, a countryside stripped of its wildlife, a poisoned soil and a network of contaminated watercourses. Now they tell us our food isn't safe to eat. Something has gone horribly wrong.

In our hearts we remain a peasant people. The grandsons and granddaughters of the Rowes and their like are still out there. The land is not yet quite exhausted. It's time to start rebuilding our rural heritage.

We need to dismantle the subsidies, free up the land and get farmers producing for people again, not for the calamitous intervention state. And we must begin taxing the polluters and the destroyers of habitat.

Given clear price signals farmers will respond readily enough. For all their innate conservatism they are rapid adopters of new methods, or in this case, new old methods.

Graham Harvey

The writer is a farming journalist and scriptwriter for 'The Archers'.



Pastures new: we need to dismantle the subsidies, get farmers producing for people again

Tony Buckingham

The consumer must be king

CHANGING MARKETS

If you want to make British agriculture green then you have to make the consumer king. That means overhauling a system of supermarkets that is uncompetitive. It means transforming an educational and labelling system that keeps people ignorant about food. We must create local markets where consumers and producers can restore their historic close relationship, which mass production and mass consumerism have destroyed.

The reality is that retailers and traders are sovereign. They mediate between production and consumer. They set the specifications, the price, even when and how the growing occurs down on the farm. Giant companies straddle the food world, competing to get value-added food and drink down our throats. Five retailers have around two thirds of the UK grocery market. A proper competition policy that put consumers first would break up these large companies.

We can have local markets. Last month I visited a 120-acre fruit and vegetable enterprise in Devon. Used for dairy or beef, it would employ around two

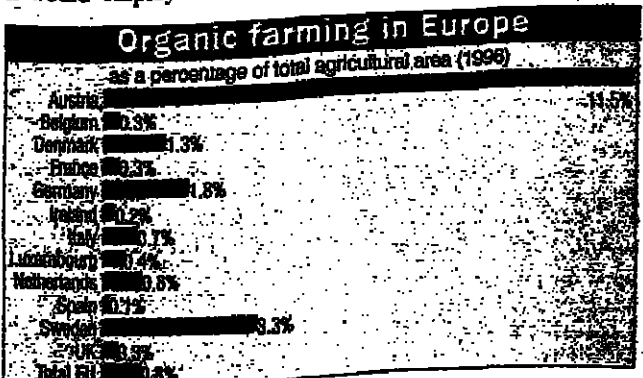
families, at best. This had 30-40 jobs, produced 95 different plants and, despite supplying supermarkets, also supplied 1,000 households within 30 miles with weekly boxes of seasonal food. It can be done.

And then there is the issue of information. Consumers know that current information strategies such as labelling have been exposed as a charade. What label showed vegetarians that gelatin was a beef-product? We must have better labelling that tells everything about the way a food has been produced. A sane food culture also requires proper education. We should make food central to the classroom and the school's meals.

We cannot achieve these structural and cultural changes overnight. In 20-30 years, maybe, but we need debate and leadership now. The vehemence of consumer action in the BSE crisis suggests that consumers have flexed their muscles. There are lessons for us all.

Tim Lang

The writer is professor of food policy at Thames Valley University.



A shake-up for a healthier industry

FARMING REFORM

We need a fresh start. Instead of the vast array of agricultural subsidies under the Common Agricultural Policy, we need a single scheme of incentives encouraging ethical and organic farming.

Those farmers who wished to go it alone by foregoing state support and living from the market would be at liberty to do so – but within the limitations of more civilised environmental and health and safety standards (which would prohibit cannibalism in animals, for example).

A balance between livestock and arable production would be restored, giving a more varied landscape and rebuilding natural fertility with animal wastes. More diverse farming systems reduce the need for chemical use, as natural pest

and disease controls – such as more balanced plant and animal nutrition, and predators of damaging insects – have a chance to reassert themselves.

There would be additional payments for management of the features which make British rural landscapes so beautiful – the hedges, ditches, stone walls, ponds and copes. And if the farm were managed to the standards of one of the food certification schemes – the RSPCA's Freedom Foods, or the organic label – farm income could be topped up by the premium with which the market currently rewards these systems.

Even under such a benign system, it would still be neces-

sary to reorder the two functions that are so unsuccessfully combined within MAFF: defending the consumer, and promoting the farming industry.

MAFF should be renamed the Ministry of Food and Farming, reflecting the relative reordering of priorities. Consumer protection should then be floated off into its own independent division within the MFF. Such a Food Standards Agency should be analogous to other regulatory agencies established recently both here and overseas: the National Rivers Authority could be a domestic model, with the food authorities in Australia, Norway and the US

providing overseas models. If given the necessary powers, a clear regulatory function and its own champion at Minister of State level, it could stand up to the producer-orientation in MAFF and restore public confidence in British food.

The challenge for the new Minister of Food and Farming would be open up to the mass of consumers the chance to buy at least some organic or specialist foods. If the policy framework is right, that's not such a tall order. But just now it looks well beyond the reach of the hapless Mr Hogg.

Hugh Raven

The writer is an independent food and farming policy specialist, and a council member of the Soil Association.

Shoppers say no to drugs in food

HEALTH BENEFITS

A problem with the humble carrot is the reason why many of us first made the switch to organically-grown produce. Last year, the Government admitted that the organo-phosphate content of one sample was 25 times the expected amount. Shoppers were advised to scrub off all the skin, not that the part of the vegetable where beneficial vitamins and minerals are stored.

The average British consumer ingests more than 40 different pesticide residues every day. We do not really know the dangers we face from current agricultural practices. But more people are just saying no to these legal substances.

More than 100,000 people now subscribe to "home-shopping". Every week, crates of fresh organic fruits and vegetables are delivered to their

doorstep. Thousands more routinely head for the organic section of their local supermarket. Their motivation? To safeguard health from the potentially damaging effects of agro-chemicals. There is stronger evidence – although still circumstantial – against hormones or growth promoters which aim to increase weight and the proportion of lean muscle to fat in beef cattle. The alarm first sounded in 1980 when an Italian schoolboy allegedly began to grow breasts after eating veal containing traces of a synthetic hormone.

In 1989 the European Union banned the use of this and other hormones in meat production, and only last month tightened restrictions further on hormone-

treated beef, and widened its ban on other growth promoters, such as clenbuterol or "angel dust", linked with an outbreak of poisoning in Spain in 1990. The British government was a lone, opposing voice in this debate.

The declining sperm count of Western men has also aroused concern about modern farming. The suspicion is that responsibility lies with chemicals in pesticides, plastics, detergents and electronics that mimic the action of oestrogen, a female hormone. A Danish study in 1994 suggested that men eating organically-grown food have twice the sperm count of men who do not.

Organic farming would also avoid the widespread use of

antibiotics as preventive treatment in livestock who are not infected. There is concern that the liberal use of such drugs is the farmyard driving the development of microbes that are resistant to antibiotics.

It is hard to predict what would be the impact on health if Britain returned to a gentler mode of farming. Certainly those who are occupationally exposed to pesticides and other chemicals would benefit but the population could also gain. Most cancer specialists agree that eating more fruit and vegetables and less meat would reduce the number of cancers by at least a third. If those foodstuffs themselves were free of chemicals whose effect we don't really know, then how much greater would that figure be?

Liz Hunt

SHORT BREAKS WITH LONG MEMORIES

From the exhilaration of Alton Towers, to the beautiful Peak District and from the world famous 'Potteries' to delightful Stately Homes, Gardens and Market Towns, Staffordshire will never cease to amaze you. For your free brochure with discount vouchers, return the coupon or call us now on:

0345 660560 (calls charged at local rate)

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Please return to: Staffordshire Tourism
P.O. Box 27, Barnstaple, EX31 1YW.

REF1215

BT and Oftel to lock horns over local calls

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

A new battle between BT and the telecoms regulator Oftel is about to break out over the expected growth in the market for local telephone calls. According to BT's own estimates growth in local calls will slow to 2 per cent a year in the five years from 1997 from a post-war average of 5 per cent.

The projection falls far short of that used by Oftel, the industry watchdog, in setting new price controls and will be used by BT in its increasingly bitter battle against the regulator.

BT says that assumptions over market growth are the "most marked" stumbling block in reaching agreement with Oftel. Unless the company accepts Oftel's decision on future price caps it will end up in the hands of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The company also launched a fresh attack on plans by Don Cruickshank, director general of Oftel, to assume wider powers against anti-competitive practices.

One source said: "You run the risk of the director general becoming the dictator general."

Oftel believes that local call volumes could grow by up to 7 per cent. However, BT argues that the main growth in the marketplace will come from special services such as 0800 numbers and call diversion which fall out-

side the scope of the price cap. The company also said that with 92 per cent of the population linked to the network it would become increasingly difficult to match historic growth without a drastic change in the way people used the telephone.

The BT source said: "We are getting close to saturation point on the network and with increasing competition from mobile telephony and cable it will become an uphill struggle to grow the level of calls. We cannot find a good explanation as to Oftel's view on what the market can achieve."

Oftel said that the estimates would vary according to the type of analysis used, adding: "It could well be that BT is not comparing like with like."

The company is also gearing up for battle on Oftel's view of its potential efficiency gains.

BT, which has shed more than 100,000 jobs over the past four years, claims that the watchdog's target of 4.5 per cent improvement per year is "unrealistic and probably beyond our capabilities".

According to BT insiders: "We do not feel confident that there is a tremendous willingness on the part of Oftel to compromise. The ability to go to the MMC is the only real comfort we have that he might be responsible in his decision."

Mr Cruickshank is proposing to limit price changes to between five and nine percentage

points less than inflation compared with "RPI minus 7.5" today.

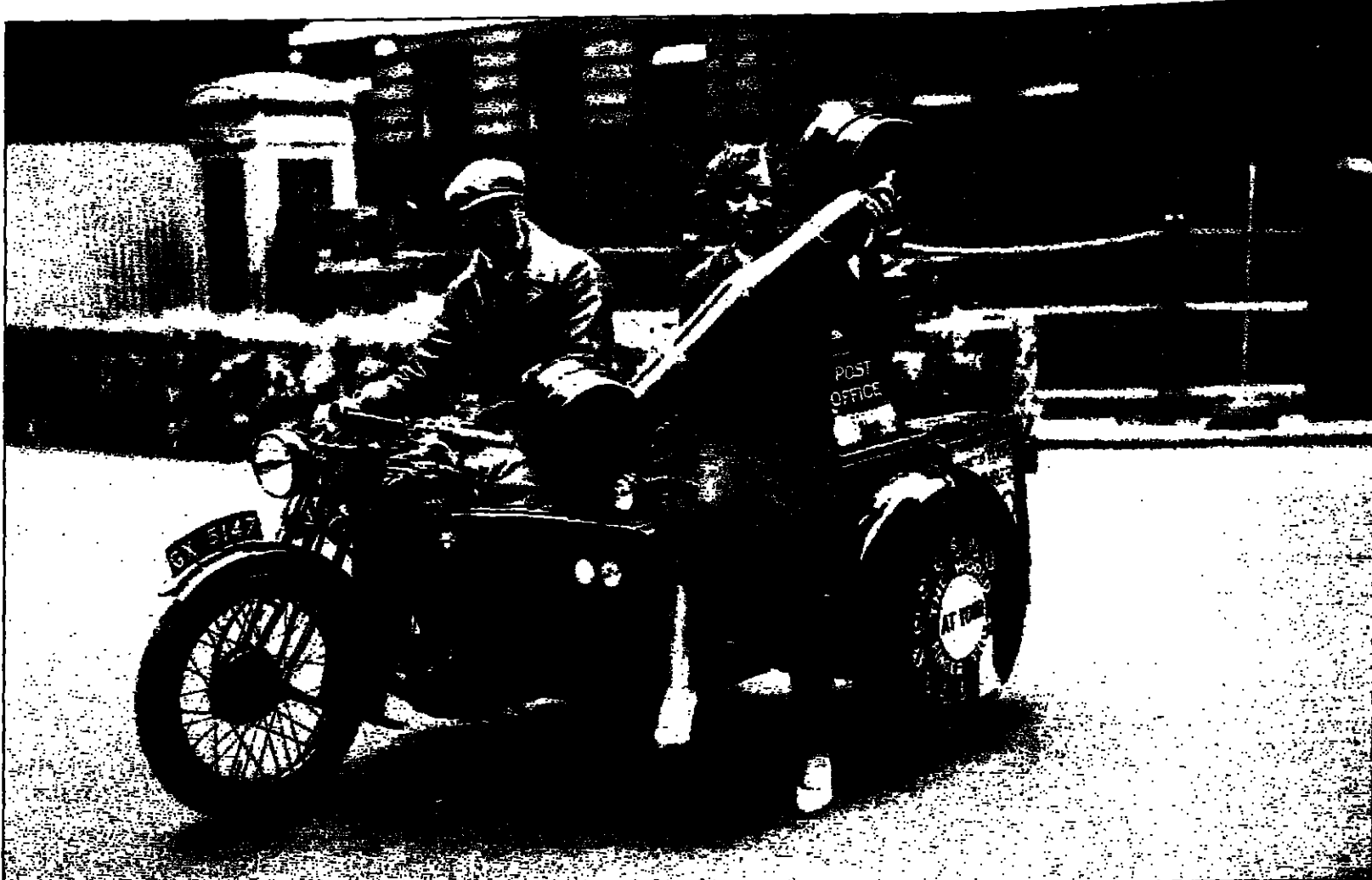
BT's view that the regulator is being unacceptably tough is not shared by some City analysts, who believe that Oftel has softened its approach over recent months. There is an assumption that the outcome will be "steady as you go", with Oftel plumping for the middle of its proposed range. According to most observers, BT could live fairly comfortably with the continuation of the current regime.

The pricing changes must be resolved around the middle of the year and go hand in hand with the plans for sweeping powers against market abuse to which BT vehemently objects.

The company's grumble is that there is insufficient right of appeal in the Oftel proposal. It is also concerned that there are no binding guidelines setting out what will be anti-competitive and that it will therefore give Mr Cruickshank and his successors a very wide discretionary power. The watchdog is likely to bend to some of these concerns by making the changes according to European competition law. But Mr Cruickshank is so far unswayed that BT needs an independent appeals body. He has also made it clear that failure to agree on the competition issue would lead to an all-encompassing MMC reference.

Profile, page 17

Vodafone and Cellnet 'to retain lead'



Loud and clear: Orange and Mercury One-2-One need to move up a gear to keep up with their bigger rivals

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Vodafone and Cellnet will continue to dominate the UK mobile telephony market for many years to come in spite of the onslaught by fledgling rivals, Orange and Mercury One-2-One, according to a report by Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, writes Mary Fagan.

SGST says the move towards new digital networks is slower than most people expected and that the opportunity for Orange

and One-2-One to lure people switching from analogue to digital has been overplayed.

Vodafone and Cellnet have older analogue networks and are gradually migrating customers across to their new digital systems.

One-2-One and Orange, which have always been digital, hope to grab those people while they are considering the move to the new technology.

The report concludes that Vodafone and Cellnet will continue to maintain a large share of the overall mobile market and will also have a larger share of the higher-spending business market. "For years to come they will retain the vast majority of non-cost conscious customers," it says.

The report also forecasts, however, that the overall market will continue to boom with

Britain on target to become the third country outside Scandinavia to achieve 10 per cent penetration. There are 5.5 million UK subscribers today, with Vodafone the market leader at almost 2.5 million and Cellnet not far behind. Some industry observers believe that the total will exceed 15 million by the end of the decade.

SGST says that the arrival of One-2-One and Orange, which

recently floated on the London Stock Exchange, has greatly expanded the overall market by targeting consumers with lower prices. It also points out that while Vodafone is still the biggest in terms of subscribers, it "has found it more difficult to be the dominant force it was, not least because two of its three competitors appear to have more than a passing interest in profitability".

Bulgaria hits back at Rover

RUSSELL HOTTEN

The Bulgarian government yesterday hit back at Rover Group over closure of the country's sole car maker after the embarrassing failure of a joint venture with the UK company.

Roumen Gechev, deputy prime minister, said the project's demise was because the Rover Maestro cars being produced were uncompetitive and there was no marketing strategy.

He said allegations made last week that bureaucratic obstacles and a lack of government support were behind the collapse of the Rodacar joint venture were untrue.

"Claims that the government contributed to Rodacar's failure are absolutely groundless," Mr Gechev said, adding that the government had no contractual commitment to buy the Maestros.

Vincent Hammersley, a Rover official, had said that the government's failure to order Maestros for its own fleet, despite assurances that it would do so, had hit the company.

He said last week that the Bulgaria plant would close at the end of May after selling about 200 of more than 3,000 Maestro vehicles that had been imported for assembly in the country.

Rodacar was launched a year ago when Rover, a division of Germany's BMW, invested £20m (£13.3m) for a 51 per cent stake. A private Bulgarian consortium, Daru Group, owned the remaining 49 per cent of the venture, which was to be a launch pad into other east European countries. Last month Daru hit financial difficulties, and its banking operation was rescued by the state bank.

Employment figures put the skids under Wall St

DANIELLE ROBINSON
New York
and RUSSELL HOTTEN

Stocks and Treasury bonds were pummeled on Wall Street yesterday, with the Dow Jones losing more than 130 points in morning trading and the Treasury bond yield surging to 6.93 per cent in the wake of last Friday's stronger-than-expected US March employment data.

As expected, the Dow sank the Easter break in response to news of a 140,000 rise in US jobs in March on top of a revised 162,000 jump in February and a subsequent two-point drop in Treasury bond prices during limited trading on Friday.

Attention will turn to the UK markets this morning, though some analysts believed that fears that the London stock will follow Wall Street's sharp falls were overdone.

The strong US employment figures dashed all hopes of another Federal Reserve interest

rate easing and raised fears that the Fed's next move will be to tighten.

By 1pm the Dow was down 134.40 points to trade at 5,545.48 and the 30-year bond yield had pierced key support levels to 6.93 per cent.

"It's a bloodbath, but one that was very much expected after the employment data and the subsequent reaction in the bond market," Phil Orlando, chief investment officer at Value Line's asset management division, said.

The sell-off was across the board, with declining issues swamping advancing stocks by an almost 20 to 1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange. Broad market indexes were also sharply lower.

Analysts are predicting 7-7.25 per cent on the 30-year bond - a crucial level at which many investors are expected to reduce their portfolio weighting in shares and put cash into money-market instruments. Nevertheless, many leading market commentators were still reluctant to call yesterday's sell-off the beginning of a bear market. "I would not jump to that conclusion based on one day's trading," Dick McCabe, chief market analyst at Merrill Lynch in New York, said.

London was expected to feel some knock-on effect today. Stephen King, international economist at James Capel, pointed to February's US non-farm payrolls which had only a small impact in London.

"What may be happening to the US economy does not necessarily apply to Europe," he said. "This looks like a specific US problem, whereas most European economies are slowing down with further rate cuts to come."

He told Reuters news agency: "You will probably see the US bond market weakness coming through in Europe but I would very much doubt if we see any sort of permanent correction."

thless, many leading market commentators were still reluctant to call yesterday's sell-off the beginning of a bear market. "I would not jump to that conclusion based on one day's trading," Dick McCabe, chief market analyst at Merrill Lynch in New York, said.

London was expected to feel some knock-on effect today. Stephen King, international economist at James Capel, pointed to February's US non-farm payrolls which had only a small impact in London.

"What may be happening to the US economy does not necessarily apply to Europe," he said. "This looks like a specific US problem, whereas most European economies are slowing down with further rate cuts to come."

He told Reuters news agency: "You will probably see the US bond market weakness coming through in Europe but I would very much doubt if we see any sort of permanent correction."

Shocks in store for electricals

NIC CICUTTI

The electrical retailing industry is set to face a further round of restructuring as already-squeezed margins come under further pressure, according to Verdict, the retail consultants.

Profit margins on warranties, the guarantees sold on electrical goods, are also likely to fall as greater competition is forced on retailers by the Office of Fair Trading.

A number of banks appear increasingly attracted by the warranties market: "The net result will be increased competition and lower prices," the Verdict report predicted yesterday.

"[We] calculate that warranties can contribute up to 4 per cent of gross profit margin. Any reduction in this figure will have a significant impact in a market where retailers' profits are already water-thin."

Verdict's findings come as Dixons, the leading electrical store group that owns Currys and PC World, extended its lead in the sector to 16.7 of market share in 1995.

Comet, the second-placed

retailer owned by the Kingfisher group, succeeded in arresting the decline it faced in 1994, raising its share of the market to about 5.4 per cent, followed by Norweb at 2.5 per cent.

However, Verdict predicted a potential takeover battle between Comet and Scottish Power for Norweb's 68 stores, put up for sale last month.

"If Comet was to acquire Norweb, its number two position in the market would be consolidated. If Scottish Power won the battle, it would become number two and put a serious dent in Kingfisher's ambitions in the electricals market," the report added.

Aside from the OFT report into warranty sales, retailers face continuing investigations by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into their relationship with suppliers.

Despite significant gaps in market share between top players in the market, most directly comparable products are sold at the same price by all leading retailers.

Verdict claims that the wide variations in market share

should produce massive scale advantages, with superior buying terms for market leaders.

Not all the problems are caused by retailers: "The supply side of the business is characterised by a large global number of manufacturers with well-developed brands in which they have invested heavily," the report added.

"This is not one of the markets where the retailers exert all the power. Verdict believes that manufacturers are in a position to influence prices to a degree that is rare in today's retail market and that this may contribute to what is a rigid gross profit margin structure."

While Dixons in particular has benefited from relatively inelastic price competition, should it choose to mount a price war it could do so, forcing some of the less competitive retailers out of business.

Hidden subsidies by regional electricity companies of their own stores are also expected to decline following the deregulation of the electricity market in 1998.

Despite current expansion

Market shares

	1995	1994	1993
Dixons Group	16.7	15.1	13.5
Comet	5.4	5.2	4.8
Norweb	2.5	2.3	2.1
Scottish Power	1.8	1.6	1.4
Kingfisher	1.2	1.0	0.9
Verdict	0.8	0.7	0.6

by several key players, further rationalisation is expected as more high street outlets close in favour of larger out-of-town retail outlets.

The entry of Escam, the German computer firm, into the high street with its takeover of many Rumbelows sites, is not expected to reverse this process. The company competes on the low cost of its computers, but many potential buyers may be attracted by its rivals' brand names.

Decision time arrives for N&P members

NIC CICUTTI

Hundreds of members of National & Provincial, the seventh-largest building society in the UK, are expected to attend a special general meeting this week to decide whether to accept a £1.35bn takeover bid by Abbey National.

The meeting, in Manchester on Thursday, marks the climax to Abbey National's year-long campaign to convince N&P's 1.4 million members of the benefits of abandoning mutual status. Although those attending the Nynex Arena, where N&P's special meeting is being

held, are likely to include a higher number against the deal, the outcome is expected to be determined by postal ballot.

At least 50 per cent of the million eligible savers must vote in favour, either at the SGM or by post, for the bid to succeed. Of those who vote in favour must hold at least 90 per cent, by value, of total members' savings balances. Among voting savers, 75 per cent must be in favour. Of borrowers who vote, only a simple majority must back the takeover. Abbey National is offering £500-worth of its shares to all borrowers.

Savers who have been with the society for more than two years are being offered £750 in cash or shares, plus 7 per cent of all eligible balances up to £50,000. A joint saver and borrower could gain up to £4,750 from the takeover.

N&P executives believe that they have won the argument, among those voting, in favour of the bid. But the society yesterday refused to say how many of its members cast postal votes by the deadline at midnight on Saturday, raising fears that a high number of abstentions may scupper the deal. However, an N&P spokesman said that

since the takeover terms were published in July last year, the society had dealt with more than 100,000 letters from members with specific queries on the deal. At least 140,000 phone calls have been received on a special helpline set up by N&P.

"Since July last year we have sent out at least four mailings to our members and in the past few weeks we have carried out an extensive television campaign to encourage them to vote," he said.

The estimated cost of the campaign has been £3m. The spokesman added that the main purpose of the mailings and the

television campaign was to persuade members to vote, irrespective of their stance for or against de-mutualisation.

The vote marks the latest stage in a de-mutualisation fever that has seen virtually every leading building society, including Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, announce plans to float on the Stock Exchange.

Last week, Northern Rock became the latest to announce its £1bn flotation plans. Bristol & West and Birmingham Midshires are also believed to be ready either to float independently or to be takeover targets.

Rentokil to sound out improved offer

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Rentokil, the business services group, is planning to meet key institutional shareholders this week to discuss how high it must raise its offer for rival BET.

Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, is believed to feel that another 10p a share might secure victory, though some investors are preparing to tell him that BET is worth an extra 15p.

The meetings come as BET was planning more complaints to the Takeover Panel today over claims that the Rentokil camp was behind market rumours that big institutions are pressing for an agreed deal.

BET, which complained to the Panel last week about the rumours, said it would make further representations because they were continuing to be spread.

BET has already complained to the Panel about a stockbroker's note from NatWest Securities, which did not say the firm was a joint underwriter to the Rentokil offer.

Legal & General and M&G, both large shareholders in BET, have denied suggestions they were pressing the company to accept a recommended takeover. BET has twice rejected Rentokil's offer of talks.

Rentokil has until Friday to decide whether to raise its current £1.9bn offer, though the company is said to now accept

its first offer is not sufficient. "Soundings will be taken to see how much higher we have to go," a Rentokil source said.

The current offer is nine new Rentokil shares and 800p cash for every 20 BET shares. At last week's closing share prices, the offer values BET at 204.25p a share. There is a cash alternative of 197.5p.

Two large institutional shareholders told the Independent that BET was worth a minimum of 10p more. One said: "BET has been better at getting its message across. An offer worth 220p a share could probably be called a knock-out blow."

BET, too, is planning to lobby by large shareholders, and hopes to get to see about 30 institutions this week, after seeing about 10 last week.

Meanwhile, Rentokil's annual report, published this weekend, showed that Mr Thompson's salary rose to £115,000, from £742,000 to £857,000. The remuneration included a £320,000 performance-related bonus.

Any attempt by BET to make capital over the pay rise were expected to be met with reminders from Rentokil that BET's chief executive, John Clark, stands to make up to £5m from turning BET around. The annual report also included promises by Rentokil to appoint two non-executive directors if it gained control of BET.

STOCK MARKETS									
FT-SE 100									
	Close	Week's chg	Change (%)	1995/96 High	1995/96 Low	Vol (m)	Div	Yield (%)	P/E
FTSE 100	3755.60	+56.9	+1.5	3781.30	3639.50	3.95			
FTSE 250	4385.30	+58.6	+1.4	4385.30	4015.30	3.39			
FTSE 350	1891.30	+27.5	+1.5	1891.30	1816.60	3.82			
FT Small Cap	2109.64	+14.2	+0.7	2109.64	1954.06	3.05			
FT All Share	1869.53	+28.1	+1.4	1869.53	1791.85	3.76			
New York	5682.88	+95.7	+1.7	5689.74	3832.08	2.15			
Tokyo	21895.84	+289.98	+1.07	21600.08	19734.70	0.731			
Hong Kong	11139.88	+182.7	+1.7	11594.99	10073.39	3.241			
Frankfurt	2495.18	+9.3	+0.4	2625.42	2253.88	1.961			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates					US interest rates				
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year		1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Bank of England	5.54	5.34	5.08	4.81	Federal Reserve	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
US Treasury	5.34	5.34	5.31	5.08					
Japan	0.53	0.53	1.82	2.72					
Germany	3.25	3.25	6.39	7.04					

CURRENCIES									
£/\$					£/DM				
	Close	Week's chg	Year Ago			Close	Week's chg	Year Ago	
\$ (London)	1.5275	+0.10c	1.5645	£ (London)	0.6547	-0.04	0.639		
\$ (NY)	1.5305	+0.40c	1.5665	£ (NY)	0.6554	-0.17	0.638		
DM (London)	2.2615	+0.78p	2.425	DM (London)	1.4895	+0.41p	1.55		
¥ (London)	163.443	+0.413	156.09	¥ (London)	107.000	+0.200	99.77		
£ Index	83.6	+0.2	88.5	£ Index	55.8	unch	96.1		

Source: Reuters

Handwritten note: 100/1.525



JOHN PHILPOTT

'If we are to have a grown-up debate on solutions to mass unemployment, politicians of all parties should openly admit that there may be a price to pay and address how best to share the pain'

Honesty is the best policy when it comes to jobs

Just in case you missed it, something remarkable happened at last week's rather low-key G7 jobs summit in Lille. A politician – a British one at that – came clean about the cost of tackling joblessness. Okay, So Education and Employment Secretary Gillian Shephard gave her overseas counterparts a somewhat rose-tinted account of Britain's recent record of job creation. But in stating that the pain of any kind of change and restructuring would have to be faced up to, Mrs Shephard displayed a degree of candour not shown since former Chancellor Norman Lamont let slip that he considered rising unemployment a "price well worth paying" in the battle against inflation.

What Mrs Shephard failed to mention, of course, was that the Government's policy of deregulated flexibility means that the pain she talks about has been very unevenly distributed, has increased working poverty and threatened social cohesion.

Those tempted simply to berate Mrs Shephard, however, ought to think again. If we are to have a grown-up debate on solutions to mass unemployment politicians of all parties should, instead, openly admit that there may be a price to pay and address how best to share the pain.

Ironically, the political task in this respect would be eased somewhat if the current consensus on macro-economic policy could be challenged. Part of Britain's jobless problem is due to the macroscopic macro-economic policy being inflicted in the quest for so-called "stability". But though the aim is laudable, the chosen means has severe shortcomings. As the late Nobel Laureate, Professor James Meade, continually argued, it makes best sense to base financial policy on a target for money GDP. Such an approach has the merit of attempting to maintain greater stability in output and employment rather than simply to preserve price stability in line with an essentially arbitrary target rate of inflation. Yet even with inflationary pressures subdued, mainstream politicians in the Government and opposition parties appear reluctant to accept this, seeming to prefer "hair-shirt economics" despite the evident harm being done to the real economy.

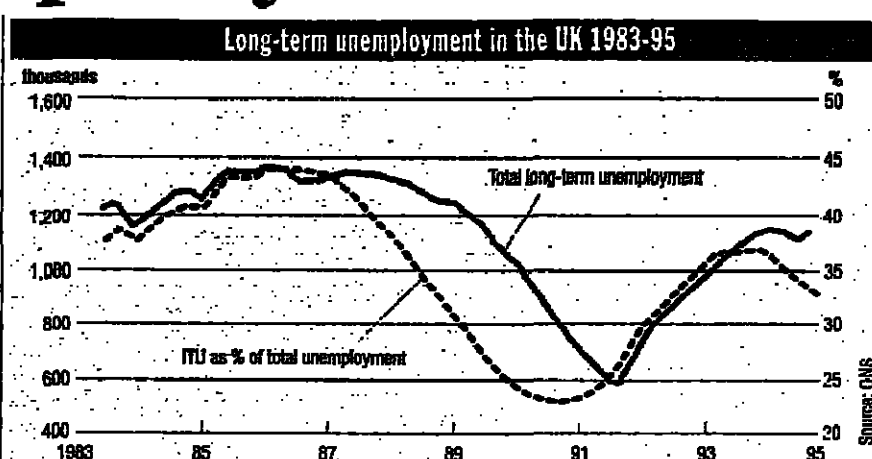
One of the consequences of the current

vacuum in macro-economic thinking is that policy debates focus almost exclusively on supply-side solutions, such as better skills provision. This causes problems since supply-side measures cannot hope to prove fully effective if demand is constrained – which helps explain why unemployed people themselves are often amongst those most sceptical about the value of more training. None the less, the supply side clearly does matter since even a controlled demand expansion would at best hit inflationary pressures at around 1.75 million unemployed (6 per cent of the workforce). So what are the supply-side options for tackling core joblessness?

The option favoured by the Tory right is to deregulate the labour market still further and cut welfare to the bone. However, the social problems associated with a flexible labour market are already apparent and a "more of the same" approach could impose intolerable social costs.

Those on the left nostalgic for the pre-Thatcher era might prefer instead to push demand to a level consistent with very low unemployment and implement some form of "pay policy" to reduce the wage pressure that would inevitably arise. Unfortunately, this option – while meriting renewed consideration – is totally out of fashion. A more radical option still would be to encourage "work-sharing" – but in the absence of income-sharing, which may be difficult to achieve, this could raise hourly labour costs and serve to increase rather than lower core unemployment. This leaves one with perhaps the best option – ie employment programmes targeted at the long-term (one year-plus) unemployed.

As the chart shows, long-term unemployment has fallen during the recovery. But the experience of the Lawson boom in the late 1980s suggests a core of at least 500,000 long-term jobless. Few would disagree that helping these people into jobs is justified on grounds of fairness. And, as Professor Richard Layard and his colleagues at the LSE have demonstrated in countless studies, providing jobs for the long-term unemployed would not stoke inflation. If left unaided, the chronic jobless remain outside the active



labour market. Unlike their short-term unemployed counterparts in the dole queue, they exert no disciplining influence on wage bargainers. So reactivating the long-term unemployed is efficient as well as fair.

For this group – many, though not all, of whom lack skills – the essential policy choice lies between making them more employable, thus pricing them into better paid jobs, or pricing them into the types of jobs they can perform without new skills by means of subsidies or adjustments to taxes and benefits. An obvious problem with radical tax/benefit reform – such as the introduction of Citizens' Income – is that while this may improve incentives for the lower-paid it will have implications for tax rates and work incentives further up the earnings scale. Training meanwhile is expensive and the track record of government training schemes both in Britain and abroad is poor.

On the face of things, therefore, job subsidies paid to employers, or the provision of temporary jobs in the public or voluntary sectors, look a better bet. Indeed, so long as the gross cost of jobs programmes does not exceed the cost of unemployment to the Exchequer, they should be self-financing, at least in the medium term.

The self-financing argument for a wholesale onslaught on long-term unemployment in this way rests on the assumption that each subsidised job shortens the dole queue. But

it can be argued that some of the subsidised jobs would have been created anyway, while others will displace existing jobs. If this occurs the net impact of measures to help the long-term jobless will be reduced and the net cost raised. The counter-argument of advocates of job subsidies is that even if some job displacement occurs, those displaced will be more employable and better able to fill job vacancies than the long-term unemployed. This, it is said, will reduce wage pressure in the labour market, thus providing a spur to further job creation.

This latter argument has considerable intellectual merit but has yet to be put seriously to the test. The Labour Party, attracted by the possibility of a "free lunch", has deployed the argument in announcing plans for a new deal to in effect abolish long-term unemployment amongst 18-25-year-olds. However, more conventional analysis indicates that jobs programmes could entail on-going net expenditure. A sensible position is to remain agnostic on this issue and policy makers should thus err on the side of caution when assessing the likely cost of jobs programmes.

A crude calculation suggests that serious measures to help 500,000 long-term unemployed back to work might require net public spending of up to £2bn per annum – still a very cheap lunch but not a totally free one.

Assuming that a future Labour government would not be prepared to fund this spending by higher borrowing, cutting other public programmes, or raising business taxes the burden would have to fall on personal taxation (£2bn is equivalent to a penny on the standard rate of income tax).

Ultimately, therefore, an effective package of measures designed to cut long-term unemployment that incurred a net cost would entail a redistribution of income from employed "insiders" to formerly unemployed "outsiders".

It may be comforting to think that all that is needed is to "tax the rich", close tax loopholes, or raise capital gains or inheritance taxes. The reality is that a large part of the burden of extra taxation would have to fall upon people on around average incomes and above, many of whom, although "comfortable", do not think of themselves as affluent (and are increasingly concerned about their own job and income security).

One sales pitch for policy makers would be to emphasise the advantage of lower unemployment – for example, higher output of private or public services and reduced social problems, such as crime.

But if insiders do not consider the price of low unemployment worth paying, or are unwilling to pay it, they will either resist tax increases through the ballot box or press for compensatory wage rises which could sabotage the entire job-creation exercise. No wonder politicians prefer to talk about free lunches.

The political constraints on measures that would make a serious impact on unemployment without further eroding the social fabric of Britain are considerable. Politicians and commentators who dislike the unequal pain imposed by deregulated flexibility ought to spell out which members of society will have to pay the price of a more constructive programme of national renewal and full employment and set out the hard choices. Those not prepared to be honest about the necessary means should at least be honest enough to abandon the goal.

The author is director of the Employment Policy Institute. He writes in a personal capacity.

Cracking the code for the mother of all mergers

Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive of BT, knows a thing or two about secret codes.

His father was part of the small team of engineers that cracked the German Enigma code in the last war, a breakthrough that helped considerably towards the Allied victory. This time he is on the receiving end. Despite all BT's efforts to keep its talks with Cable & Wireless confidential, the secret has been well and truly blown open and the two companies find themselves negotiating their £33bn merger in the glare of intense public scrutiny.

If Sir Peter was looking for a challenge when he decided to quit after 10 years at the helm of computer firm ICL and join BT at the start of this year then he could scarcely have picked

The chief executive of BT must pick a careful path in an industry that is converging at frightening speed

try that is converging at a frightening pace and throwing up ever more powerful competitors as the lines blur between telephony, computing and entertainment.

Those who know him believe he is equal to the challenge. During his time at ICL he gained a reputation as a deter-

Indeed so important is the region that Sir Peter held lengthy discussions with Takuma Yamamoto, chairman of ICL's Japanese parent company Fujitsu, to ensure he was leaving for BT with its blessing. "The parting was very amicable and needed to be because the Japanese market and the

returns on capital employed, a lot of people would worry about investing in such an industry. "Competition is good for the industry but it must be sustainable. If the risks are high and the return is low that is bad for the overall industry."

Coming from outside BT as Sir Peter does, he senses that much has changed since privatisation. "BT is at a very interesting stage now it is being market-driven whereas 10 years ago it was mostly technology-driven and a single product. "It still needs to be more responsive. It can be. In the next few years it will be. The artificial distinction between fixed

'If you force very low returns on capital many would worry about investing'

and cellular will disappear over the next 5-10 years, it would be useful to have a way forward, as part of our strategy, to integrate these together. It is an important issue for us."

The new BT boss is an engineer, joining Texas Instruments after graduating from Loughborough University. With IT in Texas, he met his wife, Josephine, and developed his



Taking on the regulator: Sir Peter Bonfield says BT cannot settle regardless of cost

Photograph: John Voos

'In 20 to 30 years we want to be among the most successful global telecoms groups'

a bigger one. The immediate task is to construct a merger with C&W that satisfies politicians, regulators and shareholders alike. That is daunting enough. Beyond that lies the distinct possibility of a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the telecoms regulator, Don Cruickshank. And beyond that lies the challenge of adapting to an indus-

mined and sometimes ruthless manager with a taste for discipline that he himself suggests resulted from his early education at a convent school.

"His easy-going and bantering manner hides an iron will when it comes to business matters," says one former colleague. "But he is scrupulously fair and very straight and open. He also has a dead-pan sense of humour. He is very charming in a curious sort of way."

Talking about Bonfield the man does not come easily to Sir Peter who much prefers to concentrate on BT the company.

He will not talk about Cable & Wireless but there is no disguising how strategically important its 57 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom would be to BT's global ambitions.

"In 20 to 30 years we want to be among the most successful global telecoms companies and to achieve that we will need to be much bigger in Asia Pacific," he says.

Far East market are going to be important to BT and the people there will only do business with people they trust," he says.

Supposing a deal can be clinched Sir Peter and BT's next challenge will be to obtain agreement with Ofcom on two contentious issues – a new pricing regime to take effect next year and Mr Cruickshank's proposals to take sweeping new powers to curb what he considers anti-competitive behaviour by BT. Either dispute could land up before the MMC.

"We would like to reach agreement with the regulator under the current consultation," Sir Peter says.

However, BT will not settle at any price simply to avoid a long MMC inquiry that will be draining on management time.

Sir Peter's argument is that if the new price cap is set too tightly it will prevent competitors entering the telecoms market and thereby defeat the regulator's objective. "If you force very low

love of American life to which he is determined to return. "My long-term personal goal has not changed. I enjoy the States and have strong links there. If you ask me whether I imagine retiring under a palm

tree the answer is yes. In the meantime I have to earn a living."

Sir Peter is a fitness fanatic who found to his disgust when he arrived at BT that the gym did not open until 7am. Instead

he decided to squat during the week at the RAC club where the gym opens at six.

Since then, his time has been taken up by a rather larger test of strength and one that the telecoms industry and the fi-

nancial markets are eagerly waiting to see him and the BT chairman, Sir Iain Vallance, pull off – the largest merger in British corporate history.

Michael Harrison

IN BRIEF

• **Viacom and KirchGroup**, the German media group, are to form a five-year alliance, which includes broadening Viacom's presence in the European television market and expanding KirchGroup's programming line-up as it prepares to launch a digital pay TV service in Europe. As part of the agreements, the KirchGroup has acquired from Viacom's Paramount Pictures all free pay television rights in German-speaking territories to the US company's television shows and films produced during the term of the agreements. Viacom also obtained an option to acquire a 12 per cent stake from KirchGroup in Gestelevision Telecinco, owner of Spain's Estudios TeleCinco.

• **McDonnell Douglas Corporation**, the US aircraft manufacturer, yesterday named Michael Sears as president of Douglas Aircraft Co, its commercial aircraft unit in Long Beach, California. Sears had been vice president-general manager of McDonnell Douglas' largest tactical aircraft programme, the F/A-18 Hornet strike fighter. He succeeds Robert Hood Jr, 63, who will serve as president emeritus of Douglas and retire later this year.

• **General Motors** topped the Fortune 500 list of the US's largest corporations in 1995, with General Electric in second place, both in the same spot as the year before. According to the magazine's annual listing released yesterday, GM weighed in with US \$168.8bn in sales in 1995, up 9 per cent, and \$6.9bn in profits. (\$100bn) in sales in 1995, up 9 per cent, and \$6.9bn in profits. The car maker's profits rose 40.4 per cent. GE's sales of \$137.1bn were up 6.8 per cent compared with 1994. Its profits of \$4.14bn were down 22 per cent.

• **EgyptAir** is to buy four Airbus Industrie A-321s. The first of the aircrafts is to be delivered in July 1997. Financial details were not disclosed. EgyptAir, which has a fleet of 42 aircraft, also plans to buy three Boeing 777s next year to replace its 767s, a company source said. The Airbus deal with EgyptAir comes amid reports that China is also to place an order for around 25 150-seat A320s worth about £800m. The order is expected to be placed when the Chinese Prime Minister, Li Peng, visits the aircraft company's headquarters in Toulouse, France, later this week.

Jardines perfects knack of looking a greenhorn

What is it about the mighty house of Jardines that makes more or less everything it touches overseas turn to dust, or, to be even more cruel, makes the dust turn to dirt back in its Hong Kong home base?

It is far too soon to start writing Jardines' obituaries. The conglomerate, whose name is synonymous with the creation of Hong Kong as a thriving commercial centre, retains many well-performing businesses; but every time it enters new markets it ends up looking like a greenhorn groping its way around foreign lands.

Worse still, it has thoroughly alienated the new masters from Peking who will be taking Hong Kong back under their wing next year. Local companies have become wary of any association with Jardines and this has limited its ability to make further progress in Hong Kong where its fortunes were built.

In Britain, Jardines was reluctantly pushed to centre stage as a result of the Trafalgar House saga that ended last month when the Scandinavian ship builder Kvaerner terminated the group's unhappy stewardship by buying Trafalgar

at a fire-sale price. The saga started in typical Jardines style with what looked like a clever move back in October 1992 when a mystery buyer stormed into the market and snapped up 14.9 per cent of Trafalgar's shares. The buyer was soon identified as Hongkong Land, part of the Jardines group. It took no time at all for the new shareholders to fall out with the existing management.

By April of the following year Jardines had control of the ailing company, spending over £300m to obtain it. After last month's sale it will be able to write back less than half this amount in the current year's Hongkong Land accounts.

Omens of the Trafalgar debacle were easy enough to find. For example, just before the 1987 stock market crash the Keswick family, which controls Jardines, entered into an agreement with the New York-based finance house Bear Stearns to acquire a 20 per cent stake for \$391m. The crash came, the Keswicks panicked and reneged on the deal. Almost four years later, following a flurry of litigation, Jardines handed over some \$60m to the American

company and was able to walk away litigation-free but poorer. Had Jardines Strategic stuck with its original 1987 deal it would, by now, be putting money in the bank.

Jardines was committed to moving a greater percentage of its assets out of Hong Kong before the 1997 Chinese takeover. It simply could not afford to cease the quest for overseas acquisitions. It

expanded its Mercedes Benz distributorship in the US and Malaysia and grew its car retailing business elsewhere, including Britain with the acquisition of Lancaster plc, but these were relatively small investments and yielded modest returns. A more promising avenue for overseas expansion seemed to emanate from its Dairy Farm subsidiary, which was operating successfully as a supermarket chain, food wholesaler and chemist in Hong Kong. Here again, however, the opposite of the Midas touch was soon apparent.

Dairy Farm has just reported a truly dreadful profits record for 1995 because of a string of overseas acquisitions that were badly timed and strategically mistaken as they focused on the lower and most competitive end of the market. Big losses were chalked up in Australia where it controls the cheap and cheerful Franklins supermarket chain. In Britain a controlling interest in Kwik Save, acquired in 1987, and subsequent control of Victor Value in 1989, has brought nothing but the pain of vicious competition. In Spain red ink continues to be liberally spilled over the books of the equally cheap and cheerful Simago chain.

The only good Dairy Farm news came from Hong Kong and neighbouring countries, but here's the rub. Jardines' trading activities tend to flourish in Asia – its finance house, Jardine Fleming, is a prime example – but there is no getting away from the political problems it faces at the core of its profits centre.

China has never forgiven Jardines for leading the exodus out of Hong Kong by moving its domicile to Bermuda back in 1984, as soon as the agreement was finalised for the transfer of sovereignty. Jardines' example has been followed by the majority of listed companies, but, as ever, the one who leads gets the blame. In 1992 the Chinese government signalled that relations had deteriorated further (after the company was blamed for supporting Governor Chris Patten's democratic reform plans), a statement by the official Chinese news agency condemned Jardines as the black sheep of the business community. "It craved for nothing but chaos," the agency said.

Last year Jardines tried to restore relations with what amounted to a public apology to China by Jardine Matheson's managing director Alasdair Morrison. China responded with a less than warm statement that Jardines would have to demonstrate its sincerity. The depth of Chinese feeling is reflected by the fact Beijing has vetoed further development of Hong Kong's new container terminal by refusing to accept a concession given to a Jardines-led consortium.

Little wonder therefore that local companies are shunning Jardines like a bad smell, fearful of any association that will undermine their business interests. Yet Jardines remains one of the colony's biggest companies, even though its main stake is in property and it has demonstrated an uncanny ability to sell off bits of its property portfolio just before the market scales new heights.

Nor has it done itself any favours by so thoroughly falling out with the local stock market regulators as to ensure its delisting from the local bourse. The Jardine companies have their principal listing in London and were hoping to regain local business by obtaining a listing in Singapore but the volume of share turnover has slumped badly since last year's move.

Last week Jardine announced it was taking a 20 per cent stake in a subsidiary of the Tata Group, one of India's biggest companies. Perhaps the older parts of the former empire are beginning to look more attractive than the last remnants of the colonial system.

Stephen Vines

business

Large and unsettled shareholders make for uneasy bedfellows

Companies with big, unsettled shareholders spend much of their time peering over their corporate shoulders: they can never be absolutely certain just what their restless investors will do with their shares.

Two groups in such a quandary are involved in this week's profit announcements. Their management know their results could influence the immediate direction of the companies.

Alpha Airports has Granada sitting somewhat reluctantly on 25 per cent of its shares. Nurdia & Peacock, the cash and carry chain, has a Dutch investment group, SHV, lurking with a 14 per cent interest. Unfortunately, neither Alpha nor Nurdia will have happy tales to tell. Both have already warned that profits will be down.

Indeed, Alpha, an in-flight caterer and airport retailer, has won few friends since it demerged from Fortis two years ago. The shares, sold to investors at 140p, are now 116p.

It has been squeezed by the consolidation in the world aircraft services industry and two months ago was forced to warn that profits, expected tomorrow, would be a little below last year's £21.4m.

Alpha's response to the changes sweeping through the industry has been to increase, when possible, its catering operations and move into ground handling services with the £79m takeover of DynAir, a baggage handler and aircraft refueller in the United States.

To pay for DynAir it offered shares at 126p.

Alpha, like so many British groups, is having a hard time in the US. It lost a British Airways contract at New York's John F Kennedy airport, worth around £7.5m. As a result it expects to continue making catering losses in the US until it acquires other contracts or businesses.

The group arrived on the stock market because Fortis, before the acrimonious battle

with Granada, was keen to unload peripheral activities.

It held on to a 25 per cent stake that Granada inherited when it won the £3.9bn takeover struggle – the last big clash the market saw despite recurring stories of high-powered bid action.

To make sense of the deal Granada has to sell chunks of Fortis; indeed it has been suggested it should realise more than £1bn before its September year-end.

There was a deafening silence, broken last week, when Regal Hotels moved from a modest player into a significant industry force when it agreed to buy 60 of Fortis's White Hart chain of hotels for £121.7m. The deal lifted the Regal portfolio from 23 to 83.

Granada is thought to be negotiating the sale of the Wellcome Break motorway service centres – Whitbread is the favourite to do a deal – and there is talk it is near selling at least some of its trophy hotels.



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Getting rid of the 25 per cent Alpha stake should be relatively easy, particularly if Granada can encourage a predator. The consolidation in the aircraft support industry has already created some powerful groupings and there is an extensive list of possible suitors such as Odeon, Gate Gourmet, Dobbs and the recently formed consortium bringing together Lufthansa, CaterAir and Sky Chef, the market leader. Assuming a bidder is prepared to pay a small premium Granada should be able to clip a further £50m from its debt mountain by selling its Alpha shares.

N&P, the second-biggest cash and carry group in the country, faces a multitude of problems, most related to the steady de-

cline in the strength of its traditional customers – independent retailers. An unsuccessful diversification into American-style warehouse club shopping has also taken its toll.

It has warned that profits, due on Thursday, will be in the £19m to £20m range. Analysts had nursed hopes of more than £26m.

A year ago SHV, which owns 60 per cent of Makro, the UK's biggest cash and carry business, suggested it should inject 25 out-lets into N&P in return for enough shares to give it control. The N&P board, supported by the Peacock family whose charitable trusts have 28 per cent, fended off the approach.

Under the City's takeover code SHV is now free to ac-

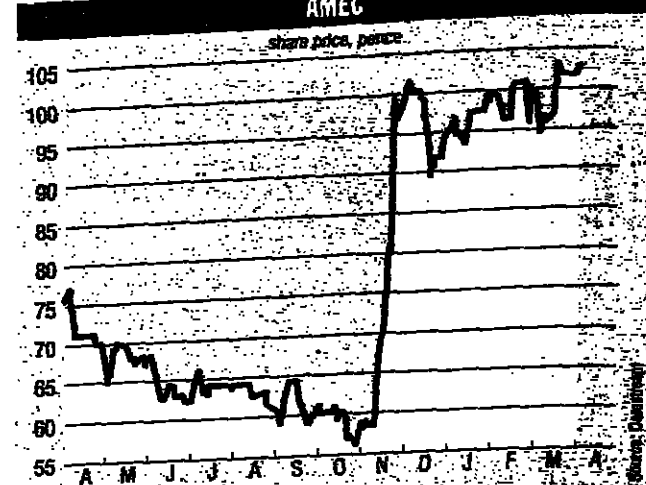
again. Many suspect that if it is disappointed by Thursday's performance it will do so.

But even if spurred into action it may not make a full bid. An attempt to lift its stake to a controlling level is more likely.

By far the biggest group reporting this week – tomorrow – is Jefferson Saurat. The Irish packaging and paper group could produce around £420m (£432m), up from £317m. It has enjoyed strong pricing and high volume but faces a tougher time this year.

Moss Bros, the clothing retailer, also has a date with its shareholders tomorrow. A year's out-turn of £9.5m is expected, up from £7.9m, following a strong interim performance. In recent weeks Moss has been linked with Austin Reed, the clothing retailer which has been the subject of takeover speculation.

AMEC, which managed to see off a bid from Kvaerner, the Norwegian industrial group that went on to take control of



struggling Trafalgar House, reports on Thursday. It should produce £33m against £24.2m last year.

Shares of Sentry Farming were among those caught up in the BSE disaster. But it was a false alarm: the group has little exposure to the disease.

The shares, at 171p, are back near their year's high. Sentry owns and manages 45,000 acres. Figures are due tomorrow and profits could be around £1m. Many shareholders, however, may be more interested in the yearly meeting – it is renowned for its sumptuous lunch.

Alcoholic Beverages

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Banks, Merchant

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
ABN	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Barclays	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Scotland	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Ireland	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of London	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Montreal	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of New York	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Paris	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Rome	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Spain	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Sweden	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Switzerland	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Tokyo	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Vienna	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Zurich	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Banks, Retail

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
ABN	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Barclays	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Scotland	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Ireland	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of London	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Montreal	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of New York	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Paris	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Rome	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Spain	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Sweden	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Switzerland	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Tokyo	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Vienna	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Bank of Zurich	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Building/Construction

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Building Materials

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Chemicals

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Electronics

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Engineering

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Food Manufacturers

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Food Distribution

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Health Care

Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Reckitt	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Thames	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Household Goods

20659	Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20660	Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20661	Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20662	Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20663	Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20664	King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20665	Adn Dmco	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20666	Brewery	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20667	Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20668	Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20669	Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50
20670	King	10.50	0.00	4.5	10.50

Sunday's race was less complicated than the other two victories. On the other hand it was perhaps a more typical grand prix

Before the start of the Argentinian Grand Prix, I really felt that the odds were against me winning my third race in succession this season. The competition was closer than ever before. Under normal circumstances, I could cope with that, but a severe stomach upset meant I was not exactly full of energy – or anything else, come to that – and ready for a 72-lap race.

I had not managed to get any nutrition into me during the previous two days. Throughout Saturday night, I was visiting the loo every couple of hours, so I didn't have much sleep. I felt sure I was going to be pretty uncomfortable at some stage on Sunday afternoon but, fortunately, everything seemed to abate just in time. Not only did I reach the finish without any major problems, the Rothmans-Williams-Renault team enjoyed another one-two as Jacques Villeneuve followed me home.

The necessary concentration had

taken my mind off any personal discomfort thanks to having plenty to think about, more or less from start to finish. With Michael Schumacher sharing the front row of the grid, my first job would be to judge just how fast the Ferrari could go. Michael was able to put pressure on me during the early stages of the race, so I had to pace myself quite carefully and yet push as hard as I could. At first, I was looking in my mirror to see what Schumacher was doing, but then I decided to concentrate solely on pulling out a lead. By 20 laps I had built up an advantage of several seconds and it seemed I had the measure of the Ferrari.

The gap reduced to four seconds after my first refuelling stop, so we lost a little bit of time in the pits. I was starting to push again when the safety car suddenly appeared and we had to form up behind it. You can imagine my thoughts because all the

hard work had been more or less in vain. Michael would be right on my tail.

There was good reason for the appearance of the safety car. Badoer's Forti had overturned and, not long after, a Ligier caught fire in a big way. Both drivers were OK but, in the meantime, I was trying to work out how best to deal with the restart now that the field was stacked up behind me.

Once the safety car pulled into the pit lane, the timing would be critical since you are not allowed to overtake until reaching the start and finish line which, in this case, was some distance from the pit entrance. I have to say that the safety car was being driven very slowly, which did nothing for tyre temperatures and pressures, both of which are vital when it comes to the performance of the car. This safety car was making such a bad job of it that I had to put my foot on the clutch



DAMON HILL

most of the time, or put the car in neutral and coast along behind him. To complicate matters even further, I no longer had any radio communication. I couldn't hear the pits but they could hear me. In fact, they could hear me fuming, with a few choice words. Everyone was having a go at getting through and, at one point an engineer was spending a lot of time trying to communicate. I was wishing he would stop talking because I couldn't work out what was

being said and I couldn't say anything while he was talking. In fact, in an effort to get him to shut up, I even tried to signal with my hands in case there were pictures coming from the on-board camera. And, of course, all the time I was trying to prepare myself for the rolling restart.

I got the jump on Schumacher and began to ease out a lead once more. The next problem was obviously going to be receiving the call for my second pit stop, but, by relying on the pit board, I came in at the right moment and this time I got away quickly.

When Schumacher dropped out, the pit signals said that Jean Alesi was in second place. And he was flying. The Benetton-Renault started to close the gap and I had to pull out all the stops. That was about the only time when I had to really drive close to the limit. I was anxious to stay clear of Alesi because I knew he

would go hell for leather at the slightest sniff of victory. Fortunately, he made a very slow pit stop a few laps later.

When his team-mate, Gerhard Berger, retired I had a sufficient cushion over Jacques Villeneuve to maintain my lead until the finish. That made it four straight victories – if you include the last round of the 1995 championship. It is the longest winning streak I've ever had; it's a brilliant way to start the season.

The three wins I've had in 1996 could not have been more different. Last Sunday's race was less complicated than the other two. On the other hand, it was perhaps a more typical grand prix, all about pressure, close competition and less variables – apart from the safety car.

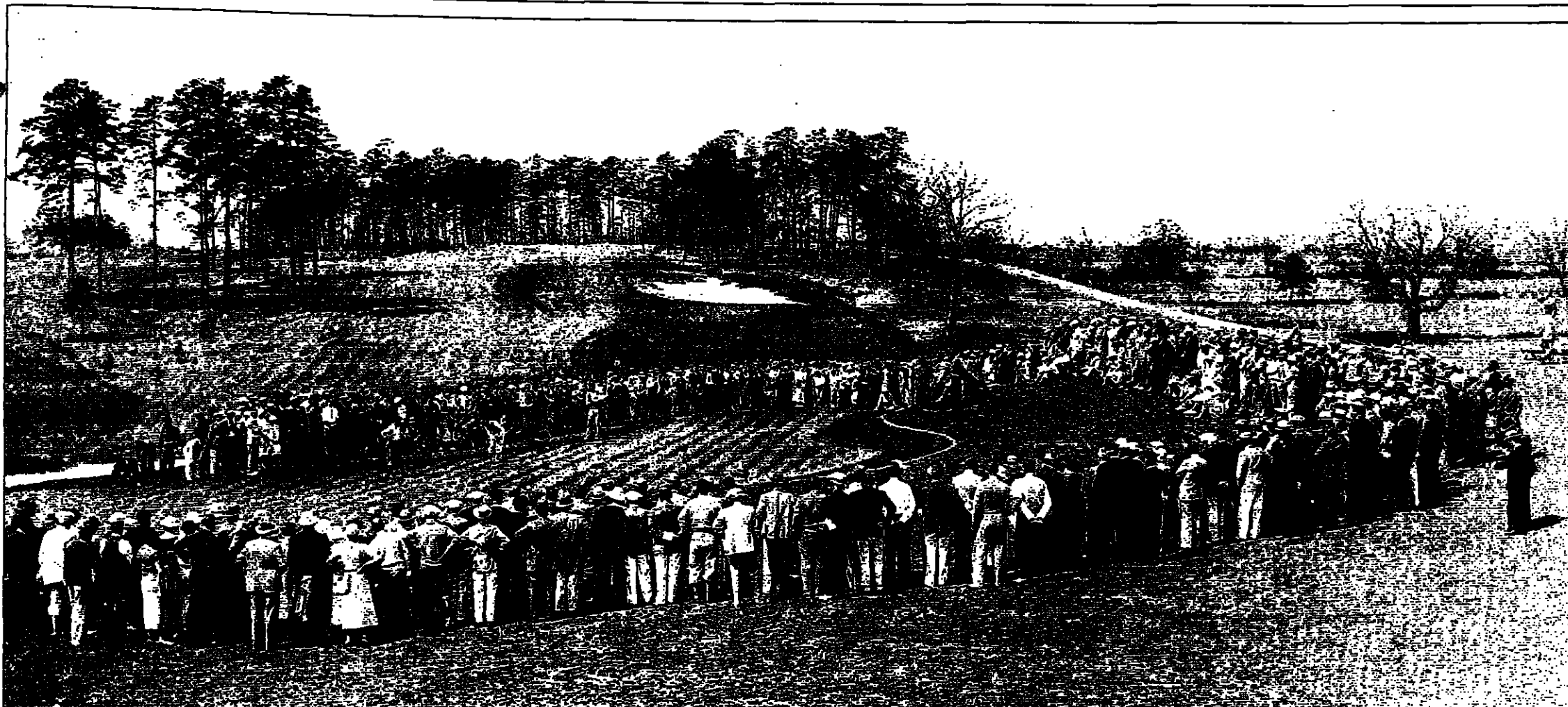
The one constant, however, has been the advantage of winning pole position, something I didn't do in Melbourne but which I have made sure of ever since. In Argentina, that

was quite a pressure moment; I was only fourth fastest, there were just three minutes to go and about 17 cars on the track. On such a tight circuit as Buenos Aires, I simply had to get pole position, otherwise winning the race would have been almost out of the question.

Everything may have gone according to plan last weekend but everyone is only too aware that just a few hiccupps can see your advantage evaporate into nothing. On the other hand, while I'm on this winning streak, I really want to pull off another win in Germany in three weeks' time.

After the race had finished I had time to think about going home again after the South American trip: time to realise that, thanks to my fitness, I had made the rostrum and received the trophy from President Carlos Menem. I can honestly say that I'd never felt better.

Copyright Damon Hill Racing



Spot the difference: Augusta likes to maintain that nothing changes, but the scenes on the 18th on Sunday will barely resemble those on the same hole in 1934

Photographs: Corbis-Bettmann/UPI

Novice winners blur the form line

Followers of form for the Masters will be baffled by the season on the United States four recently – the virtually unknown Paul Stankowski became the fourth first-time winner in the past five weeks when he beat Brandel Chamblee in a play-off to take the BellSouth Classic in Marietta, Georgia, and with it the last place in the field at Augusta on Thursday.

Stankowski and Chamblee finished on eight-under-par at 280, two in front of Nick Price and the overnight leader David Duval – and eight ahead of both Colin Montgomerie and Ian Woosnam, who closed with disappointing rounds of 73.

Stankowski, a 26-year-old Californian who won on the junior tour the previous week, was originally the sixth reserve for the tournament, but picked up the \$156,000 first prize after Chamblee dumped his second shot to the par-five 18th – the opening sudden-death hole – into the lake.

Woosnam and Montgomerie, first and second respectively on the European Order of Merit, could not repeat their third-round 68s and fell back into the pack. Two shots further back was Sam Torrance following a closing 70.

The other first-time winners since the start of March have been Tim Herron, Paul Goydos and Scott McCarron. They have all won places in the starting line-up at Augusta. The sole exception was Fred Couples' triumph over Montgomerie in the Tournament Players' Championship at Sawgrass last week.

Stankowski's victory means that this year's field will now be 94 strong, eight more than in the tournament won by Ben Crenshaw last April. The field includes 12 Europeans.

And, of course, Jack Nicklaus, who warmed up for the season's first major by winning the 100th professional victory of his career at Scottsdale, Arizona, on Sunday when he retained the Tradition title on the lucrative Seniors' tour.

He sealed his fourth win in the tournament with a second straight round of 65, seven under par, which gave him a 16-under aggregate of 272 – three better than the former US Open champion Hale Irwin. Kelly Robbins beat Val Skinner with an 18-foot birdie putt on the fifth play-off hole to win the LPGA tournament at the new Twelve Bridges club in Lincoln, California. Emily Kleiva, Meg Mallon and Barb McQuinn tied for third at 277, while Laura Davies' final round 70 gave her a 282 total and a share of 16th place.

Scores, Sporting Digest, page 23

Strange trio who created the Masters

They like things to be neat and tidy at Augusta. Clifford Roberts, co-founder of the host club of the Masters, and perhaps the man most responsible for its image, could not face untidiness and loss of independence when cancer eventually ruined his health just as he passed 80. He blew his brains out with a Smith & Wesson .38 revolver one morning in 1977, but not before he had gone to the clubhouse barber for a haircut.

In 1921 then a young partner in the Wall Street brokers Reynolds & Co, Roberts made his first fortune buying and selling leases of Texas oil. Eventually becoming one of the largest stockbrokers in New York running profitable accounts like General Motors, he had made enough cash and had enough time to focus on golf. By 1931 Roberts had serious financial friends like the bosses of Coca-Cola and the Singer Sewing Machine company. But crucially, Roberts was the most important FOB, the "Friends of Bob".

When Bobby Jones – the young legend fresh from winning everything – hinted at his desire to build a great golf course Roberts found the money, found the backers and found the Georgia Nursery property belonging to a Belgian aristocrat, Baron Berckman. When the television cameras this week pan round the Masters course and commentators show off their horticultural expertise by praising the beauty of the azaleas and the double magnolias, it is the Baron and his "Fruitlands Nursery" who should be remembered.

The rest on view is down to Jones, Roberts, and a Scottish physician turned military camouflage expert

turned golf-course designer, the remarkable Dr Alister MacKenzie.

In new research into MacKenzie's life by Professor James Scott, a retired obstetrician from Leeds, there are the first hints into why this triumvirate of the good doctor, Jones and Roberts were able to create the one thing Americans covet over all else – tradition.

MacKenzie's life as unearthed by Scott reads like a Hollywood drama. He was born in Nottingham, near Leeds, but the family came from Lochinver in Sutherland, northern Scotland. Lochinver is crucial to MacKenzie and therefore to Augusta too. Here the young MacKenzie was introduced to the skills of natural camouflage when he was out stalking red deer with his father.

Although he qualified as a doctor MacKenzie was never a committed man of medicine. He served in both the Boer and Great War but in 1916 he resigned from the Medical Corps, giving up the rank of major to become a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers to do camouflage work. He would later simplify the task of the course designer by stating: "The practitioner of camouflage tries to set up insoluble confusions with the enemy, the course designer uses the same skills to set soluble puzzles for the competitor." At Amen Corner on Sunday as the final nine holes approach, the image of MacKenzie's ghost in the colourful bushes watching to see if Augusta's camouflage is foxing the great men somehow seems wonderfully apt.

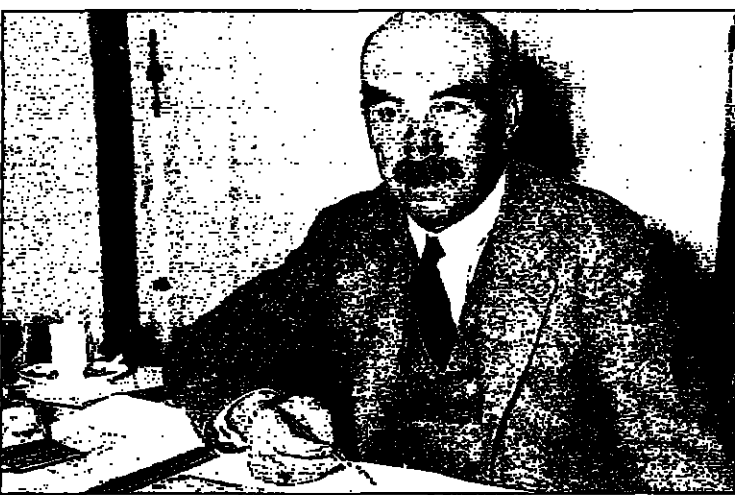
Scott believes MacKenzie was a jovial, roguish, outgoing and confident personality. "These features are best encompassed by the Scot's word *galus*," he says. But one trait

The traditions that define Augusta were developed by a reactionary Scottish camouflage expert. **James Cusick reports**

explains why MacKenzie may have fitted in well with the southern conservatism of Jones and Roberts. He was an autocrat and would have recognised the southern culture of a society where everyone was supposed to know their place. Scott maintains that MacKenzie's idea of political health "makes Reagan and Thatcher seem like liberals". In conversation MacKenzie would apparently enlarge repeatedly on the

place of golf as a bulwark against Bolshevism.

No less a saint-maker than Alastair Cooke, who befriended Bobby Jones in his later years admits Jones was an "incurable conservative". When the first casual meeting between Jones and MacKenzie took place at the Pasatiempo golf course in California, MacKenzie's design work was already internationally respected. The two got on like house on fire.



'The practitioner of camouflage tries to set up insoluble confusions with the enemy' – Alister MacKenzie

Jones "conceptualised" Augusta, MacKenzie designed it. It would have "similar features" to St Andrews (two holes), two with Cypress Points, one hole similar to the fourth at Alwoodly, Leeds, and one each from North Berwick and Muirfield. The two men firmly believed it would become "the world's wonder inland course".

MacKenzie did not get a large fee for his work at Augusta. One person around at the time said: "If he made any money on that course he would hear the change jingle in his pocket". The hint is that the good doctor would stand many a round in the bar when things were going well. MacKenzie died before all the work on Augusta was completed and before the first "Invitational Tournament" would metamorphose into the Masters.

But if you are setting about creating "tradition" you cannot reveal anything that has been changed. From original photographs of Augusta and comparison with the course now there is more than a hint of change. The almost surgical detail of the way the course is looked after may echo MacKenzie's trade. But Augusta, though they will not admit it, is a pedigree product still evolving.

In 1947 Jones was stricken with a degenerative spinal disease that eventually put him in a wheelchair. He remained president of Augusta until his death in 1971. It was Roberts who fashioned the club's image, who insisted on its independence and who cracked the whip others, even Jones himself, felt. Fewer FOBs and more CEOs (Chief Executive Officers) dominated Augusta's tycoon-ridden membership under Roberts' dicta-

torship. Augusta is, always has been, establishment. Eisenhower's successful Presidential campaign was launched and almost run from Augusta. Roberts helped organise that. He also organised the dumping of Nixon from the Vice Presidential ticket in 1952.

That the club is almost exclusively white and is as much a reflection of the make-up of the Fortune 500 richest businessmen as a racist slur. But it also seems an inherent part of the southern states' culture.

Only when forced, as they were recently when Lee Trevino and others threatened to boycott the Masters unless the club changed its membership policy did the club relent and admit its first black member. But a few black faces in the clubhouse change little. If Trevino wanted appearances changed, then fine, Augusta would change its appearance. That is the business the club has always been in.

Perhaps the pinnacle horror of such a policy is the treatment Roberts handed out to his long-term friend, Jones' disease had worsened. The legend in his wheelchair could hardly hold on to a cigarette. At that time the "tradition" was for Jones to present the Masters champion with the coveted Green Jacket. But image must have got the better of Roberts. The extremely ill Jones was banned from taking part in the televised jacket ceremony. The fall-out was that Roberts was not invited to attend Jones' funeral in 1971.

Regardless of Roberts' prejudices and autocracy, his created tradition will be on display again this week. Try telling anyone in golf it is not real and no one will believe you.

Brittle should not be allowed to be a dictator

Leaving aside such arcane pursuits as clay-pigeon shooting, we can agree that, of all sports, it is at rugby (both league and union varieties) that England are now best. In rugby union, they occupy a world position between third and fifth. The optimistic will claim that they could and should have beaten France in that spiritless play-off for third place in the World Cup. The more realistic may say that their place lies below France's, and that Australia – in addition to the inevitable South Africa and New Zealand – are above them as well.

No matter, England are clearly now a force in international rugby such as they have not been since the early 1920s, when, in any case, worldwide competition did not exist on anything like its present scale. For their current pre-eminence,

they can thank, first, Geoff Cooke and, second, the Courage Leagues, in particular the intense competition which has been generated by the First and Second Divisions and did not exist previously – when, for example, Wasps were not even on Harlequins' fixture list.

There are those who pay tribute also to the Rugby Football Union's famous "structure" of A-teams, development squads and the rest. I am afraid I do not. Young players who do not reach the squads go unjustly unnoticed; while others who find a place and are then discarded become discouraged. But this is by the way. My view is that English rugby of the 1990s is the

creation of Cooke and the leagues.

Cooke was always – how can one put it? – uneasy in his relations with the RFU. As far as I know, he has played no part in the present negotiations or, rather, absence of negotiations with that body. But there is something of what William Blake called fearful symmetry in the conflict between clubs and union. There is also a paradox in that the union under Cliff Brittle – whom the union establishment did not want as chairman of its executive committee – claims to be representing the clubs too, though in his case the smaller ones.

The first step is for the RFU



ALAN WATKINS on rugby

to make a formal and belated recommendation for entry into negotiations with the First and Second Division clubs. Brittle is not or should not be allowed to be a dictator. He can be given

instructions constitutional. If he disagrees with them, he can resign. I am writing, by the way, before the announcement of whether or not there will be relegation from the First Division. Whatever the decision, it is a disgrace that it has taken so long to make, until the very last month of the season.

If there are negotiations, as there must be, their outcome will be determined less by rationality and common sense than by the resolution of interests, of which financial interests will predominate. I am here giving what would, in my opinion, be the ideal solution rather than any that will be adopted.

Both divisional and county competitions would be abolished completely, consigned to the rugby museum. Why Brittle supports the counties, and Fran Cotton has suddenly become attached to the divisional competition, are equally mysterious to me. The sole purpose of the County Championship has long been to allow Cornishmen, Yorkshiremen and others from the outer fringes to come up to Twickenham to make a lot of noise, deluding themselves the while that their rugby prowess is insufficiently recognised in the Courage League tables.

The divisional competition is a more serious affair. It is cer-

tainly taken most earnestly by the RFU, which arrogantly excludes non-England qualified players from participating in it. But no one really cares about it at all. Bath against Harlequins last Saturday generated more interest and provided a better game than the South-West against London Counties would ever have done. I certainly hope the next touring party to visit England play Bath, Harlequins, Leicester and Sale – or whoever are at that time the best sides in, respectively, the South-West, London, the Midlands and the North – rather than the divisions.

In addition, contracts would

be between players and clubs rather than between players and the RFU. These individual contracts would, however, be governed by a written agreement between the RFU and the clubs collectively, providing that the interests of a Five Nations country (Wales, Scotland, Ireland and, yes, France as well as England) would predominate over those of a club.

But recently it seems to me that the countries, England especially, have been claiming too much, notably in the cavalier way they remove players for whole training weekends. As Clive Woodward complained on Saturday, referring to Ireland not England, this is unfair. Though his language was in temperate, his conclusion was correct. And needs to be properly addressed in the coming months. Some hope!

sport

FOOTBALL Liverpool bounce back and Middlesbrough leave it late while the battle to avoid relegation closes up dramatically

Collymore sings song for Europe

PHIL SHAW

Liverpool
West Ham United2
0

The last time West Ham won at Anfield, 33 years ago. "You'll Never Walk Alone" was still a sugary confection on the London stage rather than a hymn to Scouse solidarity. It was the same old song yesterday once Stan Collymore had forced them to face the music.

The £8.5m British record signing scored once, midway through a soporific first half, and created the clinching goal for John Barnes shortly before half-time. Realistically, Collymore's contribution came too late to revive Liverpool's championship hopes, but victory keeps them on course for third place in the Premiership and a return to Europe.

It was as well that Collymore was calling the tune, for an under-strength Liverpool looked leg-weary in their fourth game in nine days. West Ham, despite the luxury of not being embroiled in the relegation dog fight, showed few ideas as to how to end a long run of capitulations before the Kop.

They have now lost on 19 of their 26 matches at Liverpool since a young Bobby Moore helped them to both points in September, 1963, and amassed a grand total of two goals in the last 14 visits. Their manager, Harry Redknapp, said afterwards that the time was right to stop the sequence. To his annoyance, the West Ham players evidently did not share his conviction.

"Liverpool got done on Saturday and they had a few people out injured at the back," Redknapp said. "So it was a good time to come here and get a result, but in the first half we just stood back and watched them dominate. I was so disappointed at half-time - it had been like a practice match for them."

"I said 'come on chaps, there's a lot of people come up here to watch you play. Can you try a bit

harder?' We got stuck into them in the second half, which was a lot better, but it was too late."

West Ham deployed Keith Rowland to man-mark Steve McManaman and left Iain Dowie to forage alone up front until the second half. By then, however, Collymore had already punished their lack of ambition.

The former Nottingham Forest striker's 18th goal of the season was a low drive from 22 yards after he had picked up Jason McAteer's pass and twisted away from Danny Williamson. Luděk Mikloško got a hand to the ball but was unable to keep it out.

In the 58th minute, Collymore skipped around Marc Rieper by the dead-ball line. Barnes, meeting the ensuing cross with a near post flick that hit the net by the far upright, claimed his first goal since August.

After the interval, Dowie brought David James into belated action with a succession of long-range efforts. Julian Dicks, surprisingly restrained on his old stamping ground, also tested the goalkeeper's agility.

Even so Liverpool had further chances to embellish their success. Robbie Fowler once directing over the bar a header that was as powerful as most people's shots. Later still, McManaman summoned the energy to push the ball past Dicks, outrun the full back and hurdle the subsequent sliding tackle, a cameo thrillingly out of step with the rest of the afternoon.

"It wasn't the liveliest of fixtures," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, admitted. "But we showed great spirit after getting kicked in the teeth at Coventry." Talking of which, how depressing to hear "There's only one John Salako" rising from a West Ham following whose non-stop singing had otherwise done much to enliven matters. Liverpool (3-4-1-2): James; Thomas, Skates, Hatcher, McManaman, Redknapp, Barnes, Bennett; McManaman, Collymore, Fowler (81).

West Ham United (3-5-2): Rieper, Repper, Bile, Dicks, Hughes (Dan, 73), Rowland, Bishop, Williamson, Slater, Dowie. Substitutes not used: Potts, Martin. Referee: P. Alcock (Redhill, Surrey).



Crossing the Brazilian border: Middlesbrough's Juninho is stopped by Tottenham's David Howells in yesterday's 1-1 draw

Photograph: Adam Scott

Hateley heads QPR in right direction

JOHN PERLMAN

Queen's Park Rangers
Everton3
1

Queen's Park Rangers continued to keep the home fires burning in their bid to escape relegation with a second successive win at Loftus Road. Rangers scored twice through Kevin Gallen and Mark Hateley in a first period which they had much the better of, but it was the opening quarter of an hour of the second half which provided the decisive moments of this absorbing match.

It began with Duncan Ferguson crashing the ball against

the Rangers crossbar. It finished with Andy Impey's simple tap-in for Rangers third after Neville Southall had palmed Trevor Sinclair's angled shot into his path. Everton did manage to pull one back, an excellent volley from just inside the area by John Ebbrell.

But the visitors' fight, so evident at the start of the second half ebbed away as Impey's shot from six yards bobbed gently over the line.

Rangers' initial efforts invariably ended with the ball hoisted towards Hateley. But in the 14th-minute move that produced an excellent first goal, the

ball never left the turf. An Everton corner was knocked back by Ferguson, but intercepted by Sinclair who set off at speed. A skip took him past Anders Limpar, a burst of pace carried him beyond Barry Horne. Gallen reared up on his left, Sinclair weighted the ball just right, and the Rangers striker beat Southall.

For much of the first half Everton had put most of their attacking faith in the long ball hoisted towards the head of Ferguson, rather than the pass worked wide to the feet of Limpar or Andrei Kanchelskis.

Everton started the second half with Michael Branch on for

Limpar as a central striker alongside Ferguson. With an extra man up front, the visitors were holding the ball up and allowing the midfield and full-backs to get forward. Andy Hinchcliffe's pass put Ferguson in for a shot that only the woodwork kept out. And then Ferguson sent Kanchelskis away whose low cross from the right just eluded the lunging Branch.

With a string of corners and Hinchcliffe to whip them in, Everton were upping the pressure and their growing midfield dominance made one wonder if Wilkins was up to the pace. "I had a bad 15 minutes," he said. But then Barry Unsworth lost the

ball to Sinclair who raced in from the right to create Impey's goal.

Ebbrell's excellent strike came in the 79th minute and Ferguson should have hit the target after an accurate cross from Marc Hottiger, but Rangers were home and dry by then.

"Considering the sort of pressure we're under some of the football we played was flowing stuff," Wilkins said. "We are still trying to do the right things at the right time."

Queen's Park Rangers (3-4-1-2): Sommer, Barmby, McDonald, Yates, Bennett; Halloway, Wilkins, Impey, Sinclair; Gallen, Hateley. Substitutes not used: Reedy, Brasher, Dehno, Everton (4-5-1-1): Southall, Hoggan, Wilson, (Preston) (Start, 63), Hinchcliffe, Kanchelskis, Horne (Start, 74), Patterson, Ebbrell, Limpar (Branch, 45), Repper. Referee: P. Dunn (Portland, Dorset).

Villa profit from Grobbelaar's mistake

JON CULLEY

Aston Villa
Southampton3
0

Southampton held out for more than an hour against a subdued Aston Villa, but once behind had nothing to offer. The margin probably flattered the home side, who shone only in the closing stages, but that is of little consolation to Southampton, who are dragged into increasingly turbulent waters at the bottom of the Premiership, where two points now cover the bottom five.

With their place in Europe assured, Villa have little to play

for in any material sense and it showed in a performance devoid of spark throughout a drab first half in which neither goalkeeper needed to make a save for more than half an hour.

Southampton, having drawn hope from Saturday's defeat of Blackburn, had much more cause for satisfaction and it appeared Dave Merrington, their manager, had made a canny decision in restoring Bruce Grobbelaar to the goalkeeper's jersey, in place of Dave Beasant. The former Liverpool player kept out Andy Townsend's long-range drive in the first half, then denied Savo Milosevic and Alan Wright in the early part of the second.

However, having looked in commanding form on his 500th League appearance, Grobbelaar then made the critical mistake which invited Villa's opening goal, rushing from his line to chase Townsend's corner but failing to claim the ball, and Ian Taylor made an instant strike.

It turned out to be a mortal wound to Southampton's survival hopes as the Coca-Cola Cup winners came to life. Dwight Yorke missed one chance to extend their lead, but then combined splendidly with Gary Charles in a moment of high skill to set up the full-back's first goal in a Villa shift, walked in from close range.

Two minutes later, Yorke broke free in pursuit of Townsend's pass, cutting in from the left to stroke home his 25th goal of the season. A breathless finale might have produced still more, Grobbelaar pushing a Townsend chip on to one upright before Tommy Johnson, following up, crashed the loose ball against the other post. Milosevic, fortunate to have gone unnoticed by the referee earlier when landing a punch on Tommy Widdington, then hit the woodwork himself before kicking down an advertising board in frustration.

It was a defeat addressed with honest clarity by Merrington,

who appreciates the gravity of Southampton's plight. "One goal killed us off and it was Bruce's fault that we conceded it," he said. "He should not have come off his line. I felt Milosevic was lucky to stay on the field. Had one of my players done something like that I would have taken him to task severely, but then I'm not going to make that an excuse. If after a whole season you finish down at the bottom, you have only yourselves to blame."

Aston Villa (3-5-2): Beasant; Charles, Dalglish, McGuff (Start, 47), Taylor, Wright, Johnson, Dwyer, Townsend; Yorke, Milosevic. Substitutes not used: Joelson, Delany (81). Southampton (3-5-1-1): Grobbelaar; Nelson, Dodd, Widdington, Bental, Cranford; Hughes, Vernon (Wilson, 65), Iredale; La Violette, Shepperson. Substitutes not used: Magilton, Beasant (81). Referee: P. Danson (Lancaster).

Ince threat to quit Inter over taunts

Paul Ince has warned that racial abuse could force him to leave Italy. The England midfielder, who joined Internazionale from Manchester United for £7m last summer, was sickened by "negro" taunts directed at him during Inter's 4-2 victory at Cremonese on Saturday.

Ince, 28, scored his first goal for the club, but was later booked for sarcastically applauding the cheering Cremonese supporters. "I didn't come to Italy to be a target for people who call me a negro in public," he said. "This sort of behaviour doesn't take place in England."

I will have to give a lot of thought to whether I stay here or not."

The Inter president, Massimo Moratti, who is to meet Ince later this week to discuss his future, said: "Paul's goal is a minor consolation for all the abuse. He has my sympathy."

Paul Gascoigne will be given permission to miss England's friendly against Hungary on 18 May - their last Wembley warm-up match before the European Championship finals - so that he can play for Rangers against Hearts in the Scottish Cup final on the same day.

Degryse keeps Wednesday afloat

PHIL ANDREWS

Sheffield Wednesday
Arsenal1
0

Wednesday have not scrambled about the Premiership lifeboat yet, but a goal on the hour from their Belgian international striker Marc Degryse has at last given them a firm grip on one of the lifeboats.

Arsenal, still hoping to reach Europe next season, failed yesterday largely because Ian Wright was as anonymous as Degryse was influential. With Wednesday finding it difficult to shake off the relegation jitters, better finishing from Arsenal could have steered the match irreversibly their way before the home side broke into their stride.

Disciplined at the back and ever willing to run into space off the ball, Arsenal made Wednesday look like the away team early on, and David Hirst was left to forage alone up front while his colleagues batted down the hatches. John Hartson had one shot deflected by Kevin Pressman's legs and screwed another wide before Paul Merson forced Pressman to turn over the bar, but Arsenal failed to turn their dominance into goals.

When Wednesday briefly raised the siege, their pretty, one-touch football was broken up by the Arsenal back four. And then the Dutchman Regi Blinker decided to run at them.

The full backs, Peter Atherton and Lee Bracken, began to offer support down the wings and gradually the tide was turned. Atherton floated a shot on to the bar after Hirst's attempt had been charged down and Hirst failed to make a clean connection from Degryse's through ball.

Arsenal were now living increasingly dangerously and Lee Dixon had to scramble the ball away after Guy Whittingham's cross gave Hirst and Mark Pembroke shooting chances.

Degryse's growing influence started to look as if it would be decisive after the break. David Seaman was forced to save his angled drive at the second attempt and then he found Hirst with a cross which his striking partner volleyed over.

Degryse, who cost Wednesday £1.5m from Anderlecht in the close season finally, and inevitably, broke Arsenal's resistance with his 11th goal of the season. He found Whittingham on the right, moved into space for the return and tucked his drive low to Seaman's left. Wednesday never looked back, and only Seaman's agility prevented Degryse doubling his tally when Whittingham put him clear.

Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): Pressman; Biscoe, Newsome, Walker, Amoroso; Pembroke, Whittingham, Sheppard, Blinker (Widdowson, 64), Degryse. Substitutes not used: Nicol.

Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Dain, Keown, Linington, Marshall, Benjamin, Platt, Holder (Shaw, 66), Merson, Wright, Hartson (Rose 86). Substitutes not used: Hister. Referee: S. Dunn (Bristol).

Crowd's derision for Leeds' lack of vision

DERICK ALLSOP

Leeds United
Nottingham Forest1
3

Nottingham Forest remained in sight of Europe as Leeds United slipped further into obscurity, to the accompaniment of Eiland Road's derision.

An early lead flattered Leeds yet deceived no one, least of all a gallery that was applauding championship success four seasons ago. Yesterday the slow handicap of the disenchanted beat a solemn tattoo on the eardrums of the manager, Howard Wilkinson.

Forest applied order, patience and decisive penetration to their game as the remnants of Leeds' confidence visibly drained away. Goals by Colin Cooper and Jason Lee eased Forest in front by the half-hour mark and they ought to have doubled their score by the interval.

Forest squandered more offerings but Ian Woan's characteristic strike, midway through the second half, removed any prospect of an injustice.

Without Tony Yeboah, Leeds held little threat and even less self-belief up front. Without Bryan Roy, Forest still proved a handful for a defence disoriented by Gary Kelly's deployment at left-back. Wilkinson conceded as much by restoring him to his more familiar territory on the right, and bringing on another of his young players, Ian Harte.

Their sloppy, visionless football contrasted with the measured assurance of Forest's game. The ever-resourceful Steve Stone and Woan and the influence of Stuart Pearce's leadership symbolised the essential difference between the sides.

Forest might have been two up before Leeds scored but in the bill in the 10th minute. David Whetherall brushed aside Steve Chettle's attentions at the far post and headed in Gary McAllister's inswinging corner.

Another inswinging corner after 18 minutes, this time from Scot Gemmill, dropped almost on the goal-line, presumably bamboozled Lukic, and left Cooper with a simple equaliser.

Woan and Stone combined to create an opportunity for Lee and a deflection off Kelly ensured the goalkeeper was powerless to intervene. Lee held aloft his tresses in a defiant gesture to his manager and anyone else who cares to poke fun at him.

Woan's persistence was rewarded after 66 minutes with a half-volley from just outside the area.

Lee had three chances in as many minutes to embellish his record but instead supplied the Fantasy Football League boys with more irresistible material. Leeds United (4-4-2): Lukic; Radcliffe, Harte, n. Palmer, Whetherall, Kelly (Roy, 81), McAllister, Speed, Brown, Pearce. Substitutes not used: Pennington. Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Crossley; Hailand, Cooper, Chettle, Pearce; Stone, Gemmill, Bell-Williams, Woan; Lee, Campbell (McGinley, 83). Substitutes not used: Phillips, Howe. Referee: R. Hart (Dinnington).

Curcic conjures a lifeline for Bolton

NEIL BRAMWELL

Bolton Wanderers
Chelsea2
1

If most people believe that Bolton have already booked their place in the First Division next season, they have forgotten to tell Sasa Curcic. The Serb's stunning solo goal yesterday afternoon rekindled the dying embers of the Bolton survival bid.

On the back of a dismal showing at Everton on Saturday Bolton initially carried a melancholy air of resignation. It was a point in the campaign crying out for individual heroics.

The timing of Curcic's winner, minutes before half-time, was as crucial as the goal itself. Midway into the Chelsea half, Curcic hopped, skipped and jumped through the crowd before rifling a 20-yard drive into the top corner.

The midfielder has largely carried the huge burden of expectation on his own slender shoulders throughout the season - because of his side's woe of strike rate, he has been forced to spark the attack almost singlehandedly. With only three games remaining though, the other Bolton players belatedly combined to help ease Curcic's Herculean task.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, was understandably delighted at the revival. "It was an excellent performance - we've

hit the critics early. We passed the ball well at times. They are digging deep and we are back in with a shout again. We were more compact and closer to our midfield players than on Saturday."

On the other hand, the Chelsea manager, Glenn Hoddle, was critical of his side's application and attitude. "It's about their pride. Are they hurt as much as I am? Bolton were worthy winners and there were times when they showed better quality on the ball. It is a collective game and until we get the act together as a team we are not going to do anything."

Bolton's early defensive work showed all the urgency of a pre-season friendly and this was typified by the simplicity of Chelsea's unchallenged three-man move to take the lead. Raul Gullit released Paul Furlong to the byline, and his cut-back created space for John Spencer to drill home.

Chelsea struggled to turn domination into chances, though, and Bolton, though sparked into life by the visitors' goal, also struggled to carve many openings. John McGinlay, fed into the area by Alan Stubbs, had the best chance, but hit an angled first-time shot into the far corner before Curcic stole the show.

Bolton (4-5-1): Ward, Bengerson, Farnsworth, Coleman, Phillips, McGinlay, Salmons, Sedgwick, Thompson, Curcic; Blake (Taylor, 81). Substitutes not used: Pustisamen, Green. Chelsea (3-5-2): Hinchcock, Myers, Lee, D. Dwyer, Petrassio (Burley 45), Gullit, West, Spiondo, Merson (Pescoschi 67), Spencer, Furlong. Substitutes not used: From (84). Referee: S. Lodge (Barnsley).

Petterson postpones Roker celebrations

IAN POTTS

Sunderland
Charlton Athletic0
0

Sunderland's 14th successive game without defeat kept the smile on the face of their manager, Peter Reid, even after a disappointing stalemate against Charlton Athletic, another of the First Division promotion hopefuls looking to skip the play-offs.

A near-capacity audience at Roker Park had anticipated the victory which would have taken the leaders to within one win of a place alongside their neighbours, Newcastle and Middlesbrough, next season. But while the fans' hit record "Cheer Up Peter Reid" is heading for the nation's top 20 next week, the team's elevation to similar heights must wait a shade longer.

The most noteworthy openings in a nondescript first half were crammed into the closing minutes. Charlton's third-choice goalkeeper Andy Petterson bravely beat away a close-range header from Kevin Ball, and then Steve Agnew dispossessed John Robinson while he appeared to have broken clear.

The key to Sunderland's 12-month transformation from Second Division posibilities to Premier League probabilities, with what is virtually the same staff, has been the quality of their passing and their confidence on the ball. Both attributes were

Whelan punishes Spurs' laziness

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Tottenham Hotspur
Middlesbrough1
1

Middlesbrough, their mid-season free-fall now halted, did enough to contain Spurs yesterday. It did not take much. When Chris Armstrong headed Tottenham into the lead with just six minutes remaining, it was more than they deserved. And it was entirely in keeping with the lack of concentration they had displayed throughout a mediocre match that they allowed Middlesbrough to equalise within a minute.

The hope of qualifying for Europe still animates Tottenham's season, and yesterday lifted them to within one place of fifth position, which their manager, Gerry Francis, believes will secure them a UEFA Cup place.

But their overall performance was a weary one despite the early promise of a concise movement involving Teddy Sheringham and Armstrong which saw the latter produce a drive which Alan Miller did well to tip over.

Middlesbrough, who lacked both Jan Åge Fjørtoft and Nick Barmby because of injury, began with understandable caution as they sought to extend a run which had brought them eight points from their previous four games. But as the first half wore on, the most energetic Tottenham man appeared to be the supporter literally drumming up support in the East Stand.

After the break, it was the visitors, with Juninho and Craig Hignett linking with increasing confidence, who became the dominant force. After 77 minutes, Hignett sent the 19-year-old debutant, Mark Summerbell through, but the ball bobbed and the youngster shot over.

The consequences of that miss deepened when Armstrong struck at the far post from a corner. But Middlesbrough responded with a barrage of shots before Phil Whelan, advancing from defence, forced home an equaliser. "We deserved that," the Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, said. He was right. And his young side are making a good fist of finishing the season with the same brio as they began it.

Francis was philosophical afterwards, despite having seen Sheringham leave the field requiring seven stitches above his eye after colliding with the perimeter wall. "I was disappointed that we couldn't hold our lead but the way other results went today we can still reach Europe. We are certainly doing it the hard way, though." Next Monday's game at Arsenal - one place above them - could be crucial.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker, Austin, Campbell, Redmond, Wilson; Fox, Doherty, Howells (Edinburgh, 81), Rosenaur; Sheringham (Start, 67), Armstrong. Substitutes not used: Day. Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Miller; White, Pearson, Whelan, Cox, Moore, Mutton (Summerbell 44), Hignett, Parnham, Juninho, Farnham. Substitutes not used: Branco, Campbell. Referee: P. Jones (Lancaster).

Simpson leaves pack stranded

Football

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Derby County, who opened a five-point gap between second and third places in the Endsleigh League First Division on Saturday, made sure the pursuing pack received the clear message that only the play-off route to promotion was still available to them by trouncing Tranmere Rovers 6-2 at the Baseball Ground yesterday, writes Mark Burton.

Derby, 1-0 winners at Oldham on Saturday, had Paul Simpson, scorer of three goals and provider of two others, to thank for ensuring they would gain ample reward for the 3-1 defeat they suffered at Tranmere's hands earlier in the season. They were caught out after only five minutes when Paul Cook put Tranmere ahead from a free-kick. It took Derby until the 38th minute to find a way back. Simpson's fierce drive being parried and Darryl Powell knocking in the rebound.

After the interval, Derby took

command with five goals in 19 minutes, Dean Yates heading the first from Simpson's corner in the 50th minute. Simpson then thrashed in two goals and bobbled in a direct free-kick, with Dean Sumridge adding the other. John Aldridge put away a late penalty for Tranmere.

Derby, who trail Sunderland by three points, are being chased by Crystal Palace, who recovered their momentum after Saturday's setback by winning 2-0 at struggling Reading. Dougie Freedman knocked in their first on the stroke of half-time after Reading goalkeeper Simon Sheppard failed to hold Dariusz Wdowczyk's headed back-pass.

It took two good saves by Nigel Martyn to keep Palace ahead and Stuart Lovell headed against a Palace post before Ray Houghton added their second goal in the 72nd minute from Freedman's pass. Four minutes later, Palace's David Tuttle was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Fifth-placed Ipswich Town were hit by a Clive Mendonca hat-trick as they lost 3-1 at Grimsby Town, but their East Anglian

rivals, Norwich City, did them a favour by beating Huddersfield Town 2-0, only their second home victory in 15 matches.

Leo Roget made a brief but dramatic outing for Southend United. The 18-year-old came on in the 86th minute and scored in injury time to deprive the bottom club, Watford, of a rare victory. Craig Ramage had put them ahead in the first half. It hardly helped Watford's desperate plight that Oldham won 3-1 at Port Vale.

Blackpool have made their task of moving up to the First Division more difficult by losing three times in six days. Yesterday they were ahead at home to Rotherham United but they succumbed to a chip by John McGlashan and a header by Trevor Berry. Swindon Town took full advantage by winning 2-0 at Crewe Alexandra with a goal from Kevin Horlock and another from David Preece, who ran the game, to go four points clear at the top.

Oxford United also stepped up the promotion pressure by leapfrogging over Crewe into third place with a 3-0 victory at Wycombe Wanderers.

European joy for Cullen

Hockey

Tina Cullen scored both goals for Hightown in their 2-1 victory against Berliner in Rotterdam yesterday to take the European Cup-Winners' Cup for the first time, writes Bill Cowhill.

The Merseyside club weathered strong first-half pressure from the German side, but when Yana Williams crossed after good work down the right, Cullen was on hand to open the scoring in the 51st minute. Her second goal came 11 minutes later and although Berliner pulled one back at a penalty stroke, Hightown hung on.

Jansher's five in a row

Squash

Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, overcame Rodney Eyles' quick start to clinch his fifth successive British Open title in emphatic fashion at Cardiff.

Eyles, the Australian seeded second, made an impact in the opening stages of yesterday's final, as he tried to keep the pressure on Jansher, but once the top seed had taken the first game, he was never in trouble.

Bond beats Higgins on final black

Snooker

Nigel Bond denied John Higgins' hopes of overtaking Stephen Hendry as the game's No 1 by beating the Scot in the final of the British Open at Plymouth yesterday. He held his nerve to clinch a tense 9-8 victory over the defending champion on the final black.

Higgins looked likely to secure his third ranking title of the season when he led 69-0 in the deciding and was faced with a moderately difficult red to put the game beyond doubt. However, he missed, having concentrated on potting black the shot before rather than going for position.

The World No 12 still required a snooker, which he obtained with one red remaining. The frame eventually went down to the last couple of balls with Higgins failing to pot the pink, which would have allowed him to keep the title. Bond knocked it in and produced the thinnest of cuts to drop in the black.

Higgins was "not that disappointed". He said: "I have got £32,000 and I am within striking distance of Hendry."

Torreilles secures draw for Paris

Football

A late try by Pascal Bomati and Patrick Torreilles goal secured Paris St-Germain a 2-2 draw against Oldham at Charlery Stadium yesterday. A crowd of 6,327 saw Paris gain their third point in a try from Andrew Paterson, but then Entart scored himself after an excellent handling move.

Oldham stretched away again with a try from Andrew Paterson, but then Entart scored himself after an excellent handling move. Torreilles converted and then added a penalty when Oldham's loose forward, Howard Hill, was sent to the sin-bin for a professional foul six minutes from time whereupon Paris made full use of the extra man.

Workington suffered another heavy defeat at Derwent Park, this time 5-22 to Sheffield Eagles. The home side were in contention for an hour after they clawed their way back from a 20-2 deficit to be within

Powerhouse: Chris Morley leaves Leeds' Mick Shaw grasping.

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Torreilles secures draw for Paris

A late try by Pascal Bomati and Patrick Torreilles goal secured Paris St-Germain a 2-2 draw against Oldham at Charlery Stadium yesterday. A crowd of 6,327 saw Paris gain their third point in a try from Andrew Paterson, but then Entart scored himself after an excellent handling move.

Oldham stretched away again with a try from Andrew Paterson, but then Entart scored himself after an excellent handling move. Torreilles converted and then added a penalty when Oldham's loose forward, Howard Hill, was sent to the sin-bin for a professional foul six minutes from time whereupon Paris made full use of the extra man.

Workington suffered another heavy defeat at Derwent Park, this time 5-22 to Sheffield Eagles. The home side were in contention for an hour after they clawed their way back from a 20-2 deficit to be within

seven minutes into the second half but PSG showed plenty of spirit, hitting back through their second row, Didier Cabestany, from an Entart kick.

Oldham stretched away again with a try from Andrew Paterson, but then Entart scored himself after an excellent handling move.

Torreilles converted and then added a penalty when Oldham's loose forward, Howard Hill, was sent to the sin-bin for a professional foul six minutes from time whereupon Paris made full use of the extra man.

Workington suffered another heavy defeat at Derwent Park, this time 5-22 to Sheffield Eagles. The home side were in contention for an hour after they clawed their way back from a 20-2 deficit to be within

only four points but the Eagles scored five tries in the final quarter to clinch victory as Workington ran out of steam.

Sheffield also made a flying start, with their centre Jean-Marc Garcia scoring two tries in the first 10 minutes. The five at the end were scored by Bright Sodje (his second), Ryan Sheridan, Mick Cook, Anthony Farrell and Andy Hay.

In the middle of those bursts, Workington scored two tries in the space of three minutes to drag them back into the match but they had a missed an opportunity after 60 minutes. Darren Carter was put through with two men on either side of him and only the full-back to beat, but was tackled and from then on Sheffield took control.

Biela opens with double victory

Motor racing

The worst fears of the British Touring Car Championship field were confirmed yesterday when the Audi driver Frank Biela won both the first and second rounds of the series in front of a crowd of 30,000, writes Gwyn Dolphin from Donington Park.

The reigning World Cup winner led both races from start to finish as his main rivals, Rickard Rydell and Alain Menu, both had problems. Biela's four-wheel drive Audi had given best to Volvo driver Rydell in qualifying for the opening race, but the German beat him away at the lights and stroled ahead to win. Will Hoy and Menu gave

the Williams-Renault team hope with second and third, but plans for Menu to better that in the second race were dashed in qualifying.

His car failed a ride-height check and was forced to start from the back of the grid. Biela again led all the way, under pressure from Hoy but was never truly threatened.

Chinese rule the roost

Table tennis

Kong Linghui, the world champion, landed the English Open men's singles title at the Kettering Arena yesterday. Kong, the 20-year-old from China, defeated his team-mate and world No 3 Wang Tao 12-21, 14-21, 21-14, 21-14, 21-14 in a final that lacked

the thrills of the five-setters because the players knew so much about each other's games.

China also triumphed in the women's singles and doubles finals, with Wang Min victorious in both. Yang defeated Taiwan's Chen Jing in the singles, and then teamed up with Wang Hui to edge past team-mates Li Ju and Wu Na for the doubles title.

FA Cup Premier League

Aston Villa (1) 34,059	Southampton (2) 0
Tottenham (3) 28,788	Chelsea (1) 1
Manchester United (4) 28,788	Liverpool (2) 1
Arsenal (5) 28,788	Everton (3) 1
Newcastle (6) 28,788	Wimbledon (4) 1
Blackburn (7) 28,788	Middlesbrough (5) 1
Derby County (8) 28,788	Nottingham Forest (6) 1
Leicester City (9) 28,788	Sheffield Wednesday (7) 1
Birmingham City (10) 28,788	Crystal Palace (8) 1
Ipswich Town (11) 28,788	Reading (9) 1
Norwich City (12) 28,788	Watford (10) 1
Huddersfield Town (13) 28,788	Preston North End (11) 1
Millwall (14) 28,788	Barnsley (12) 1
Luton Town (15) 28,788	Bury (13) 1
Walsley (16) 28,788	Gillingham (14) 1
Shrewsbury (17) 28,788	Exeter City (15) 1
Notts County (18) 28,788	Torquay United (16) 1
Grimsby Town (19) 28,788	Hartlepool (17) 1
Wycombe Wanderers (20) 28,788	Stevenage (18) 1
Oxford United (21) 28,788	Maidstone United (19) 1
Swindon Town (22) 28,788	Dover (20) 1
Peterborough United (23) 28,788	Southend United (21) 1
Colchester United (24) 28,788	Braintree Town (22) 1
Dagenham & Redbridge (25) 28,788	Thurrock (23) 1
Havant & Waterlooville (26) 28,788	Eastleigh (24) 1
Farnborough (27) 28,788	Wokingham (25) 1
Basingstoke & Deane (28) 28,788	Farnham (26) 1
East Thurrock United (29) 28,788	Maidstone United (27) 1
Ebbsfleet United (30) 28,788	Maidstone United (28) 1

Endsleigh Insurance League First Division

Derby (1) 18,021	Tranmere (1) 1
Crystal Palace (2) 18,021	Reading (2) 1
Merthyr Tydfil (3) 18,021	Mansfield (3) 1
Mansfield (4) 18,021	Mansfield (4) 1
Mansfield (5) 18,021	Mansfield (5) 1
Mansfield (6) 18,021	Mansfield (6) 1
Mansfield (7) 18,021	Mansfield (7) 1
Mansfield (8) 18,021	Mansfield (8) 1
Mansfield (9) 18,021	Mansfield (9) 1
Mansfield (10) 18,021	Mansfield (10) 1
Mansfield (11) 18,021	Mansfield (11) 1
Mansfield (12) 18,021	Mansfield (12) 1
Mansfield (13) 18,021	Mansfield (13) 1
Mansfield (14) 18,021	Mansfield (14) 1
Mansfield (15) 18,021	Mansfield (15) 1
Mansfield (16) 18,021	Mansfield (16) 1
Mansfield (17) 18,021	Mansfield (17) 1
Mansfield (18) 18,021	Mansfield (18) 1
Mansfield (19) 18,021	Mansfield (19) 1
Mansfield (20) 18,021	Mansfield (20) 1

Second Division

Blackpool (1) 18,021	Rotherham (1) 1
Blackpool (2) 18,021	Rotherham (2) 1
Blackpool (3) 18,021	Rotherham (3) 1
Blackpool (4) 18,021	Rotherham (4) 1
Blackpool (5) 18,021	Rotherham (5) 1
Blackpool (6) 18,021	Rotherham (6) 1
Blackpool (7) 18,021	Rotherham (7) 1
Blackpool (8) 18,021	Rotherham (8) 1
Blackpool (9) 18,021	Rotherham (9) 1
Blackpool (10) 18,021	Rotherham (10) 1
Blackpool (11) 18,021	Rotherham (11) 1
Blackpool (12) 18,021	Rotherham (12) 1
Blackpool (13) 18,021	Rotherham (13) 1
Blackpool (14) 18,021	Rotherham (14) 1
Blackpool (15) 18,021	Rotherham (15) 1
Blackpool (16) 18,021	Rotherham (16) 1
Blackpool (17) 18,021	Rotherham (17) 1
Blackpool (18) 18,021	Rotherham (18) 1
Blackpool (19) 18,021	Rotherham (19) 1
Blackpool (20) 18,021	Rotherham (20) 1

Third Division

Carlisle (1) 18,021	Accrington (1) 1
Carlisle (2) 18,021	Accrington (2) 1
Carlisle (3) 18,021	Accrington (3) 1
Carlisle (4) 18,021	Accrington (4) 1
Carlisle (5) 18,021	Accrington (5) 1
Carlisle (6) 18,021	Accrington (6) 1
Carlisle (7) 18,021	Accrington (7) 1
Carlisle (8) 18,021	Accrington (8) 1
Carlisle (9) 18,021	Accrington (9) 1
Carlisle (10) 18,021	Accrington (10) 1
Carlisle (11) 18,021	Accrington (11) 1
Carlisle (12) 18,021	Accrington (12) 1
Carlisle (13) 18,021	Accrington (13) 1
Carlisle (14) 18,021	Accrington (14) 1
Carlisle (15) 18,021	Accrington (15) 1
Carlisle (16) 18,021	Accrington (16) 1
Carlisle (17) 18,021	Accrington (17) 1
Carlisle (18) 18,021	Accrington (18) 1
Carlisle (19) 18,021	Accrington (19) 1
Carlisle (20) 18,021	Accrington (20) 1

Beth Vanhall Conference

Bath (1) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (1) 1
Bath (2) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (2) 1
Bath (3) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (3) 1
Bath (4) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (4) 1
Bath (5) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (5) 1
Bath (6) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (6) 1
Bath (7) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (7) 1
Bath (8) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (8) 1
Bath (9) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (9) 1
Bath (10) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (10) 1
Bath (11) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (11) 1
Bath (12) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (12) 1
Bath (13) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (13) 1
Bath (14) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (14) 1
Bath (15) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (15) 1
Bath (16) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (16) 1
Bath (17) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (17) 1
Bath (18) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (18) 1
Bath (19) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (19) 1
Bath (20) 18,021	Dagenham & Redbridge (20) 1

Australian Rules

Adelaide (1) 18,021	Collingwood (1) 1
Adelaide (2) 18,021	Collingwood (2) 1
Adelaide (3) 18,021	Collingwood (3) 1
Adelaide (4) 18,021	Collingwood (4) 1
Adelaide (5) 18,021	Collingwood (5) 1
Adelaide (6) 18,021	Collingwood (6) 1
Adelaide (7) 18,021	Collingwood (7) 1
Adelaide (8) 18,021	Collingwood (8) 1
Adelaide (9) 18,021	Collingwood (9) 1
Adelaide (10) 18,021	Collingwood (10) 1
Adelaide (11) 18,021	Collingwood (11) 1
Adelaide (12) 18,021	Collingwood (12) 1
Adelaide (13) 18,021	Collingwood (13) 1
Adelaide (14) 18,021	Collingwood (14) 1
Adelaide (15) 18,021	Collingwood (15) 1
Adelaide (16) 18,021	Collingwood (16) 1
Adelaide (17) 18,021	Collingwood (17) 1
Adelaide (18) 18,021	Collingwood (18) 1
Adelaide (19) 18,021	Collingwood (19) 1
Adelaide (20) 18,021	Collingwood (20) 1

Baseball

American League (1) 18,021	National League (1) 1
American League (2) 18,021	National League (2) 1
American League (3) 18,021	National League (3) 1
American League (4) 18,021	National League (4) 1
American League (5) 18,021	National League (5) 1
American League (6) 18,021	National League (6) 1
American League (7) 18,021	National League (7) 1
American League (8) 18,021	National League (8) 1
American League (9) 18,021	National League (9) 1
American League (10) 18,021	National League (10) 1
American League (11) 18,021	National League (11) 1
American League (12) 18,021	National League (12) 1
American League (13) 18,021	National League (13) 1
American League (14) 18,021	National League (14) 1
American League (15) 18,021	National League (15) 1
American League (16) 18,021	National League (16) 1
American League (17) 18,021	National League (17) 1
American League (18) 18,021	National League (18) 1
American League (19) 18,021	National League (19) 1
American League (20) 18,021	National League (20) 1

Baseball

American League (1) 18,021	National League (1) 1
American League (2) 18,021	National League (2) 1
American League (3) 18,021	National League (3) 1
American League (4) 18,021	National League (4) 1
American League (5) 18,021	National League (5) 1
American League (6) 18,021	National League (6) 1
American League (7) 18,021	National League (7) 1
American League (8) 18,021	National League (8) 1
American League (9) 18,021	National League (9) 1
American League (10) 18,021	National League (10) 1
American League (11) 18,021	National League (11) 1
American League (12) 18,021	National League (12) 1
American League (13) 18,021	National League (13) 1
American League (14) 18,021	National League (14) 1
American League (15) 18,021	National League (15) 1
American League (16) 18,021	National League (16) 1
American League (17) 18,021	National League (17) 1
American League (18) 18,021	National League (18) 1
American League (19) 18,021	National League (19) 1
American League (20) 18,021	National League (20) 1

FA Cup Premier League

Aston Villa (1) 34,059	Southampton (2) 0
Tottenham (3) 28,788	Chelsea (1) 1
Manchester United (4) 28,788	Liverpool (2) 1
Arsenal (5) 28,788	Everton (3) 1
Newcastle (6) 28,788	Wimbledon (4) 1
Blackburn (7) 28,788	Middlesbrough (5) 1
Derby County (8) 28,788	Nottingham Forest (6) 1
Leicester City (9) 28,788	Sheffield Wednesday (7) 1
Birmingham City (10) 28,788	Crystal Palace (8) 1
Ipswich Town (11) 28,788	Reading (9) 1
Norwich City (12) 28,788	Watford (10) 1
Huddersfield Town (13) 28,788	Preston North End (11) 1
Millwall (14) 28,788	Barnsley (12) 1
Luton Town (15) 28,788	Bury (13) 1
Walsley (16) 28,788	Gillingham (14) 1
Shrewsbury (17) 28,788	Exeter City (15) 1
Notts County (18) 28,788	Torquay United (16) 1
Grimsby Town (19) 28,788	Hartlepool (17) 1
Wycombe Wanderers (20) 28,788	Stevenage (18) 1
Oxford United (21) 28,788	Maidstone United (19) 1
Swindon Town (22) 28,788	Dover (20) 1
Peterborough United (23) 28,788	Southend United (21) 1
Colchester United (24) 28,788	Braintree Town (22) 1
Dagenham & Redbridge (25) 28,788	Thurrock (23) 1
Havant & Waterlooville (26) 28,788	Eastleigh (24) 1
Farnborough (27) 28,788	Wokingham (25



THE MEN WHO MADE THE MASTERS

How Augusta's tradition was created 19



DAMON HILL

His verdict on the Argentinian GP 19

RACE FOR THE PREMIERSHIP: Frenchman makes the difference again after Coventry's Busst suffers horrific broken leg

Cantona rescues ragged United

GUY HODGSON

Manchester United 1
Coventry City 0

No win at this stage should be derided but this was not an occasion that Manchester United will cherish come the end of the season. The three points will be, though, even if the gauntlet they hung down in Newcastle's direction landed with the softest of touches.

This was a ragged performance from the Premiership leaders who, disrupted by injury and suspension, flitted between the inspired and mundane. The fact there was only one goal will reflect which part of their character won out in the end. Indeed Coventry, desperate for points, might have embarrassed them with a goal of their own at the end.

Almost inevitably it was Eric Cantona who provided the game's one sure touch in front of goal. The Frenchman is conducting the nearest thing to a one-man crusade to win the title and he got the strike again two minutes after half-time. It is his seventh in eight matches and the fifth time in that period that he has been the one goal scored by United.

There have been as simple as this. Ryan Giggs, a rare untarnished United success, crossed low from the left and the ball arrived in the six-yard box via Liam Daish's heel and the bodies of Paul Williams and Andy Cole. Cantona, after waiting what seemed to be an age-side-footed past Ogriovic.

It was the high point of a game that was like United, good and bad in parts. The most fluent spell arrived when the players' minds had been distracted by an horrific injury to David Busst. The Coventry defender, challenging at the far post after 90 seconds, appeared to go over on his leg, and as soon as he collapsed to the floor it was obvious he was seriously injured.

Even Old Trafford, which is not known for charity towards visiting players, suspended hostility to applaud Busst as he was carried from the field, a dark bloodstain left on the pitch where he fell. He did not go back to the dressing-room but straight to hospital where it was later revealed he had a compound fracture of the right leg.

"It was horrible," Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, said. "All the players say it was dreadful and they are distressed. The result matters, but now we are more concerned about David."

United's goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, who was closest to the injured man as he was being treated, declined to speak to the press. "I couldn't talk about the incident," his message said. "I would just break down."

Both teams were affected by the injury and for 20 minutes barely a tackle was made. Para-



United in joy: Denis Irwin (left) congratulates his team-mate Eric Cantona who has just scored Manchester United's winner at Old Trafford yesterday

Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Emphas

doxically, Coventry, who pulled Williams back into the back four, prospered more, and they created opportunities that, had they been taken, would have given the game a different complexion.

After 15 minutes Noel Whelan eluded United's offside trap, burst down the left and was halted only by Peter Schmeichel's dive to his left. Dublin was close with a header, too, and John Salako's left-foot shot after 31 minutes would have been better if it had been further away from the goal as Whelan was charging towards the far post.

You cannot afford to give United chances like this and as they recovered their composure they began to pin Coventry in their area. Andy Cole had three chances, Brian McClair was just wide with a lunging shot and David Beckham shot high over when faced by only Steve Ogri-

ovic. They might have got five goals; then again they might have been held to a draw.

After 75 minutes Dublin headed delicately into Kevin Richardson's path who, but for a bad bounce, would have been bearing down on United's goal. With two minutes remaining the Coventry skipper outflanked the red rearguard on the left but his shot sliced into the side-netting.

"We created so many chances," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said, "and we almost paid for them in the last 20 minutes when we seemed to stop dead. But if you win your two matches over Easter you have done well."

Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel; Irwin, G. Healey, May, Shearer; Beckham, Butt, McGee, Giggs; Cantona, Cole. Substitutes not used: Perrier, Bruce, Scholes.

Coventry City (4-4-2): Ogriovic; Patterton, Busst (Richard), A. Daish, Salako, Toffey; Uss, 70, Richardson, Williams, Ndiaye; Dublin, Whelan. Substitutes not used: Flett.

Referee: D. Gallagher (Barbury).

More reports, page 22
Results and tables, page 23



Coventry's David Busst is carried off on a stretcher yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

The difference an Eric can make

Eric Cantona has scored in seven out of Manchester United's last eight games. The only match in this run that he did not score in was the FA Cup semi-final, against Chelsea last April, which Manchester United won 2-1.

4 March	v Newcastle United (A)	W 1-0
11 March	v Southampton (H)	W 2-0
(FA Cup 5th round, Cantona scored first goal)		
16 March	v Queen's Park Rangers (A)	D 1-1
20 March	v Arsenal (H)	W 1-0
24 March	v Tottenham Hotspur (H)	W 4-0
6 April	v Manchester City (A)	W 2-2
(Cantona scored first goal from penalty spot)		
8 April	v Coventry City (H)	W 1-0

Wimbledon climb clear as City surrender

CLIVE WHITE

Wimbledon 3
Manchester City 0

At the final whistle, our one-time World Cup winner, Alan Ball, stalked off, not waiting to shake hands with his opposite number, his head held high, but surely not with pride at his team's abysmal performance.

Manchester City are staring relegation in the face more clearly than at the start of this troubled season when they took just two points from their first 11 games.

Even Ball found it hard to explain away this one, commenting somewhat lamely: "We'll have to do a little bit better than that."

As understatement goes, that one takes some beating.

Moments before he had arrived in the press box to link arms with Joe Kinnear, an old adversary from his (happier) playing days, City's performance had been put in rather sharper perspective by the Wimbledon manager. "If you looked at the two sides today there was only going to be one winner. They are going to have to do a lot better than that. They may get away with it, but only because of the poor quality of the rest of the sides down there."

It was fairly damning criticism and furthermore right on the mark. Whether or not the Manchester derby had left them emotionally drained, rarely can a side have offered so little when so much was at stake.

Lack of effort, of course,

has never been a criticism one can level at Wimbledon and no one epitomised better what they stood for than Vinnie Jones, who for all his faults, has a voracious appetite for work and was the driving force behind this victory secured with three goals in a 30-minute spell either side of half-time.

When City eventually surrendered the initiative, they

record of one win in 18 League games away from home.

A minute after the restart, Earle headed in from an overhead kick by Jones after Mark Scales' own headed effort had bounced off the crossbar. Bad went to worse as Kit Symons hooked the ball back across the face of his own goal and Efan Ekoku thundered in to make a perfect connection.

Belatedly, Ball introduced Uwe Rösler and the sprightly young Martin Phillips to the proceedings but it was all too little too late.

City were even denied a consolation goal when Georgi Kinkladze wriggled free of his man-marker to plant the ball wide of Neil Sullivan only for Chris Perry to race back and clear from the goal-line. With 13 points out of the last 24, Wimbledon are now sitting pretty in the relegation race. Or as Kinnear put it: "We're home, holed and smoking".

Not so Manchester City. If there was any good news to be had on this day, it was in the shared misery of Southampton and Coventry. But with their poor goal difference, City can ill afford to become embroiled in too close a finish. Their last game of the season is at home to Liverpool and for their sake they must hope that the Merseysiders' minds will be on the following week's Cup final.

Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan; Arday, Perry, Pearce, Kinkladze; Givie (Clarke, 67), Sali, Jones, Cunningham; Ekan (Goodman, 75), Holdsworth. Substitutes not used: Reeves, Maughan, Currie, Symons, Frontczek, Summerville (Phillips, 60), Verheijen, Cough, Lomac, Kavanagh, Quinn (Rusler, 60). Substitutes not used: Kernaghan, Redfern, G. Poll (Irving).

Manchester City (4-4-2): Sullivan; Arday, Perry, Pearce, Kinkladze; Givie (Clarke, 67), Sali, Jones, Cunningham; Ekan (Goodman, 75), Holdsworth. Substitutes not used: Reeves, Maughan, Currie, Symons, Frontczek, Summerville (Phillips, 60), Verheijen, Cough, Lomac, Kavanagh, Quinn (Rusler, 60). Substitutes not used: Kernaghan, Redfern, G. Poll (Irving).

Up until then, City had reasonable possession. Nigel Clough, in particular, finding ample space. But they quickly collapsed, mindful perhaps of a

record of one win in 18 League games away from home.

A minute after the restart, Earle headed in from an overhead kick by Jones after Mark Scales' own headed effort had bounced off the crossbar. Bad went to worse as Kit Symons hooked the ball back across the face of his own goal and Efan Ekoku thundered in to make a perfect connection.

Belatedly, Ball introduced Uwe Rösler and the sprightly young Martin Phillips to the proceedings but it was all too little too late.

City were even denied a consolation goal when Georgi Kinkladze wriggled free of his man-marker to plant the ball wide of Neil Sullivan only for Chris Perry to race back and clear from the goal-line. With 13 points out of the last 24, Wimbledon are now sitting pretty in the relegation race. Or as Kinnear put it: "We're home, holed and smoking".

Not so Manchester City. If there was any good news to be had on this day, it was in the shared misery of Southampton and Coventry. But with their poor goal difference, City can ill afford to become embroiled in too close a finish. Their last game of the season is at home to Liverpool and for their sake they must hope that the Merseysiders' minds will be on the following week's Cup final.

Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan; Arday, Perry, Pearce, Kinkladze; Givie (Clarke, 67), Sali, Jones, Cunningham; Ekan (Goodman, 75), Holdsworth. Substitutes not used: Reeves, Maughan, Currie, Symons, Frontczek, Summerville (Phillips, 60), Verheijen, Cough, Lomac, Kavanagh, Quinn (Rusler, 60). Substitutes not used: Kernaghan, Redfern, G. Poll (Irving).

Up until then, City had reasonable possession. Nigel Clough, in particular, finding ample space. But they quickly collapsed, mindful perhaps of a

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford.

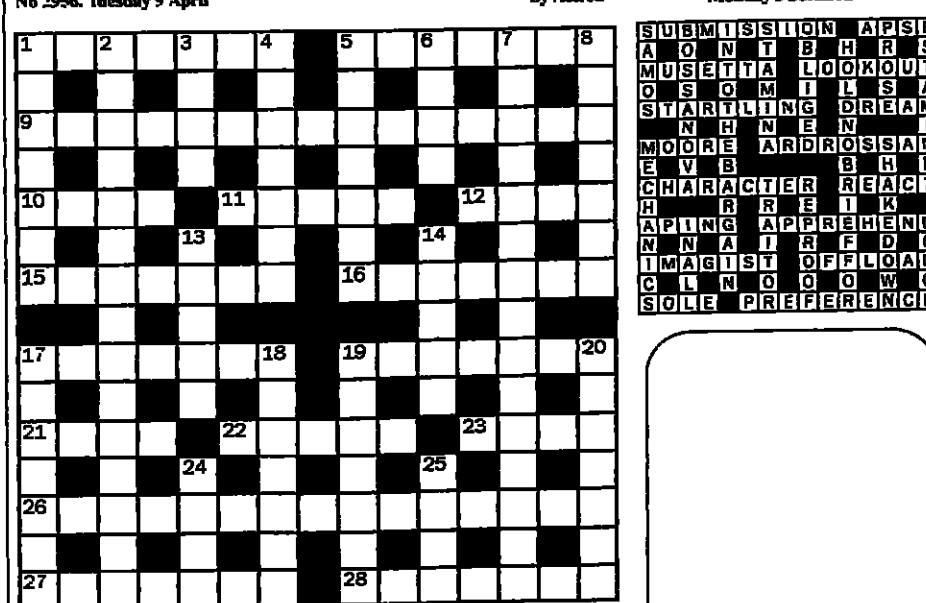
Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 906609.

Tuesday 9 April 1996

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 2956, Tuesday 9 April By Aclred Monday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Retiring, hit by nasty flu (7)
 - Sound of rain could be doubly apt round one (3-1-3)
 - Inadequate qualification for master? (9,6)
 - Boy catches name of country (4)
 - Itchy result of innumerable stinging insects in these (5)
 - Grave disease overwhelms old male (4)
 - Use sneaky tactics one day into cease-fire (7)
 - Good score to accept and share (7)
 - Hidden in the underpart of the church? (7)
 - Search after apple for concealed man (7)
 - Swing implement over to get ill-gotten gains (4)
 - Moan as hot drink's sent round (5)
 - Act as some hog, leering? (4)
 - Ration pie, plenty must be reserved for important chap (15)
 - Remits payment in short time for old transport (7)
 - Follow with stupefaction, we hear, in part of summer (7)
- DOWN**
- I live in disgrace? That's unusual (7)
 - Less important manner by sailors of old school (9,6)
 - What would get you something to eat? Payment would, in short (4)
 - Descent takes a long time for a big cat (7)
 - Former European Union's power of pastiche? (5-2)
 - Restrain right to have row (4)
 - Not the diplomatic type? (7,3,5)
 - Shake old actor swallowing doctor's line (7)
 - Greek character fit to change into ordinary clothes (5)
 - Representative has a noisy look round a farm animal (5)
 - Plays badly, in company, a WI ballad (7)
 - Collusion about catcalls (7)
 - Affirm study by nurse (7)
 - They say farewell to sleep? (7)
 - Almost no place for a member (4)
 - Guns pointing up to animal (4)

April 1996